A Century of Genealogical Progress

Being a History

of the

New England Historic Genealogical Society

1845–1945

BY

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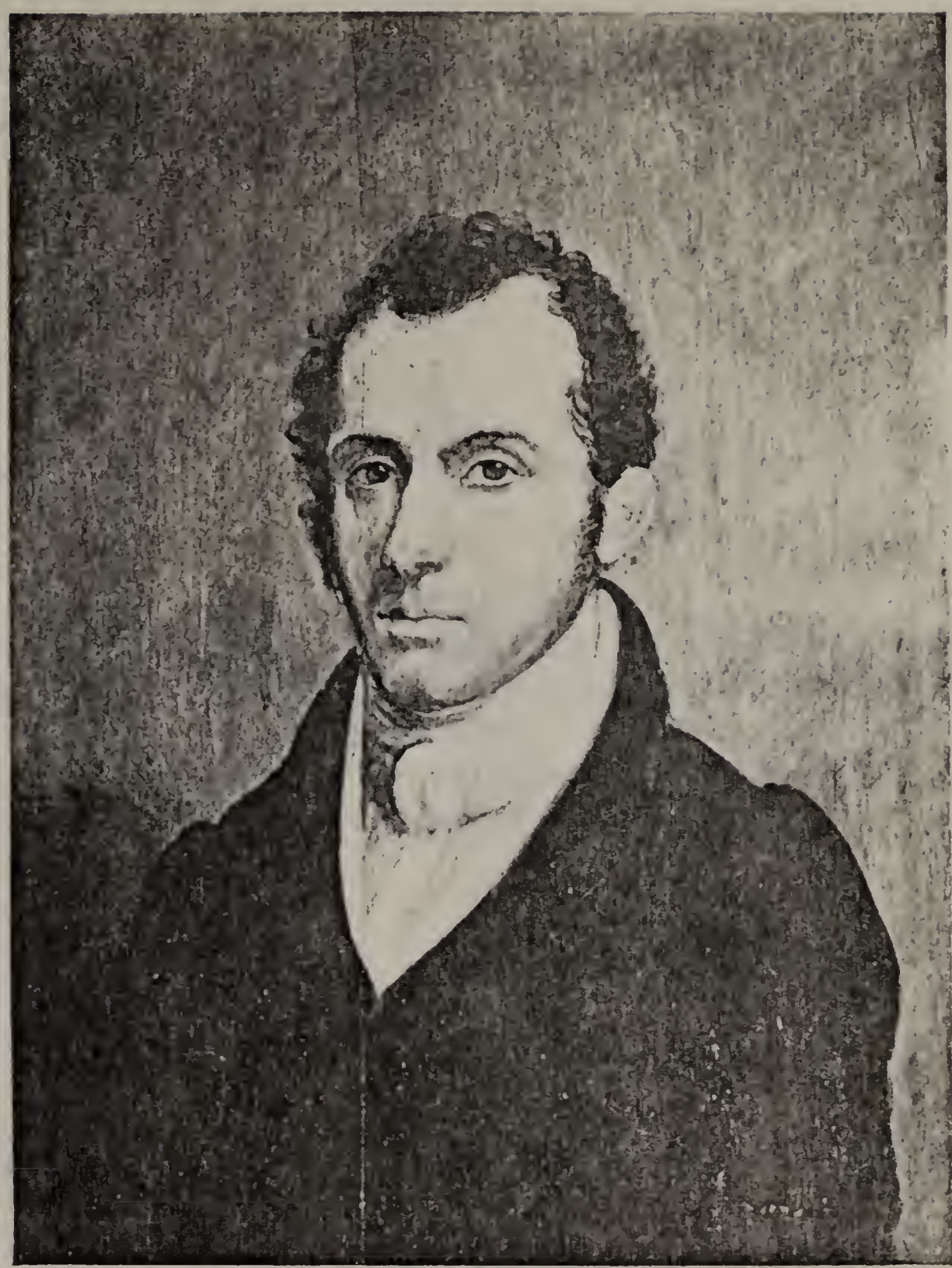

Charles Ewer

HILL, WILLIAM CARROLL, 1875-

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PREFACE

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, at a meeting of the Council on May 2, 1944, authorized the Centenary Celebration Committee to have compiled a history of the Society covering its century of existence.

The Committee engaged Mr. William Carroll Hill, historian of the Society and editor of THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, to prepare such a history and the results of his work appeared in the quarterly issues of THE REGISTER during the year 1945.

The Council further voted, on April 3, 1945, that the history of the Society should be published in book form which accounts for this volume.

There has been included herein, additional to the chronological history of the Society, a report of the Centennial Celebration which took place on March 17–18, 1945. Also in the Appendix will be found miscellaneous information and data about the Society for historical recording and reference purposes.

FREDERIC A. TURNER, *President.*

ILLUSTRATIONS

THE FOUNDING

Previous to 1845 no historical society directing its energies solely to genealogical research existed anywhere in the world. At the time of the inception of the New England Historic Genealogical Society a four-foot shelf could easily hold the few printed family genealogies and pamphlets devoted to the subject then available. The founders of the Society were bold pioneers in the field and entered upon an experiment which had no antecedent. With the advent of the year 1945 the Society completes a century of existence and ranks as the preëminent genealogical society in the country, if not in the world.

New England was a fertile field for the development of this particular application of historical study. The founders, devoted and learned antiquarians, in their foresight and perspicacity, saw in the wealth of chaotic treasures and perishing records about them an inheritance of inestimable worth, calculated by study and recordings to perpetuate for all time the character of a people of unusual political and social equality, of the Anglo-Saxon race, occupying this corner of the western continent, a stock in time to be dispersed over the broad surface of our own land and into every corner of the civilized world.

Men are instinctively and naturally moved to know something of their progenitors and, at the time of the organization of this Society, there was in Boston a small coterie of highly respected and learned gentlemen who met frequently for exchange of views on the ordinary concernments of life, each having a marked interest in the biographical and genealogical as relating to and affecting the character of the young republic then upbuilding about them. Not a few at the time were endeavoring to establish their ancestry through the Pilgrim Fathers and other early settlers, and our founders, pained at the wanton destruction of old documents and family papers, proposed to cultivate this taste and to preserve, before it was too late, the sources of information constantly diminishing with the death of elderly persons and the destruction by fire and deterioration of irreplaceable documents and records.

The project was not an easy one for the founders. Throughout the Colonies from earliest times there had existed a general aversion to the cultivation of any degree of ancestral or family history. The first settlers had come here to escape the restrictions and discriminations of hereditary titles and landed gentry under which they had suffered harshly and in their patriotic provincialism they viewed with alarm the possible creation of an hereditary order of citizenry based on family lines. It bore the mark of a titled aristocracy and might undermine the most cherished foundations of the New World institutions. So it was considered poor taste to speak of ancestors. One should avoid offensive pride or self-importance.

In fact, genealogical records were not only frowned upon but they were ridiculed. It was significant that one of the founders of the Society and its first president, who, during the preorganization days, while offering to do all in his power to accelerate the establishment of the organization, declared he would not himself become a member or accept any office. He was a sensitive, high-minded intellectual gentleman who had been pained at the ridicule heaped upon the plans from some sources. That he was eventually induced to change his mind redounded to his courage, and to the fortunes of the Society.

But the scepticism which has invariably preceded all great achievements of mankind from the beginning, the invention of the locomotive, the steamboat, the telephone, the submarine, the airplane and the radio, failed to daunt the founders for they were imbued with broader concepts. They realized that without an understanding of the genealogical relationships of a people no adequate history can be written. Biography was the very essence of history. One need but refer to the Bible to find proof of the value of biography and genealogy. The political manoeuvers of Europe down through the centuries were understandable only through knowledge of family relations, and if the genealogies of royal families and statesmen were essential in the annals of a nation so the relations of families were vital to the history of states and municipalities.

Indeed, the founders had a vision which even a hundred years has not seen fully realized: "When genealogy assumes, as it will," said one of them, "the broad and comprehensive range of inquiry which belongs to and ought to be embraced in the study, it will assume the rank and dignity of a science, showing the laws of physical development and its relation to mind and morals, thus exhibiting the causes and principles of progress and decay in the family and nations".

"Having the New England families as a basis of study, whatever serves to influence or illustrate New England life and character, in what has been written, in what has been said, or in what has been done, whether by direct influence or remotely by contrast, comes of necessity within the scope of our design," declared the founders, and they were profoundly of the belief that those Americans who bear old and honored names, who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or even across the seas into the dim mists of antiquity, may rightfully be proud of their heritage.

George Washington, in the middle of his term as president, had found time to collect and transcribe the genealogy of his family and Benjamin Franklin had journeyed about England tracing his forebears. There was ample precedent for the solicitude of our early Bostonians. As someone has said: "They who care nothing for their ancestors are wanting in respect for themselves and deserve only contempt by their posterity". Certainly every virtuous ancestor puts one under bonds to his posterity.

The distinguished, scholarly Bostonians brought forward their plans for a genealogical society at a time when the flood tide of New England literary geniuses was in the ascendency. They gave form to the idea and method of historical study and genealogical research

which, through their sound and far-sighted wisdom, not only appealed to the best minds in the community in which they lived but established the fundamental principles which have endured and persisted to the present day, culminating in the upbuilding of an institution which today has no counterpart in the whole world and constitutes a model for all similar organizations.

The primary essentials to the establishment of a successful genealogical society, the founders believed, were a love of kindred, a love for the investigations, an active imagination, sound and disciplined judgment and a conscientious regard for the truth and with all these attributes our founders were profoundly endowed.

Through several months in the latter part of 1844 several Boston gentlemen had held casual meetings at which they discussed the possibility of combining their individual interests in the unrecognized but important field of genealogical and historical research. At a meeting in October 1844, held at 4 Orange Street, at the home of William H. Montague, a prominent Boston merchant, they entered into a full and free discussion of the expediency of associated effort of their favorite study. There were present, in addition to Mr. Montague, Charles Ewer, Esq., bookseller and publisher, Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., bookseller and statistician, and John Wingate Thornton, Esq., a Boston lawyer. The discussion was long and serious but no formal action was taken. Mr. Montague gave expression to the hope that sometime a genealogical society might be formed, whereupon Mr. Ewer, with his innate vision and decisiveness, which later in life was to bring about marvellous changes in the city of Boston, immediately exclaimed: "Then let's do it now".

As a result a second meeting was held on November 1st, at the residence of Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., at 79 Harrison Avenue, and the project was so far advanced that Mr. Ewer was chosen as chairman and Mr. Thornton as secretary. Mr. Samuel G. Drake, another Boston bookseller and publisher, was in attendance at this meeting, in addition to the others before named, and he was to become one of the most helpful leaders in the movement. Such progress was made as to determine upon the establishment of a society, to discuss the name to be given it and to provide for its proper organization.

Meetings were held twice a month from this time on through the late fall and winter and into the spring of 1845, sometimes at the law office of Mr. Thornton at 20 Court Street, at the house of Mr. Shattuck on Harrison Avenue, or the residence of Mr. Drake at 56 Cornhill. Serious and important problems affecting the form and future of the society came up which called for judicious and careful consideration. Committees were formed, from among others interested, to study many suggestions presented and to approve of such as seemed likely to contribute to a broad and lasting foundation.

The constitution reached its final form and was adopted at a meeting held in December 1844. It was a compact but comprehensive document which, with a few minor changes, has well met the exigencies of the years.

The first full board of officers was elected at a meeting on January 7, 1845. Charles Ewer, Esq., who had been foremost from the begin-

ning in his efforts to bring about the formation of such an organization, was elected the first president and he was destined to be the guiding genius of the Society through the first five formative years of the organization. Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., was elected vice president. John Wingate Thornton, Esq., was chosen recording secretary and librarian and Samuel G. Drake was elected corresponding secretary. William Henry Montague was made treasurer.

Mr. Thornton relinquished the post of librarian to Edmund B. Dearborn in January 1846 and in March 1846 was succeeded by Rev. Samuel H. Riddel as recording secretary.

The selection of a proper and adequate name for the Society had occasioned not a little discussion among the founders but a final, if not entirely satisfactory, selection was made in the choice of "New England Historic Genealogical Society".

Application was made to the General Court for an act of incorporation and although the legislative committee to which the petition was referred reported adversely consideration by a second committee was favorable and on March 18, 1845 the legislature granted and the governor signed a charter for the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

On April 1, 1845 the members of the Society, which by this time included a considerable number of prominent and actively interested citizens, met and formally organized, adopted the constitution previously agreed upon, confirmed the earlier election of officers and ratified all previous organization acts.

The charter of the Society set forth that it had been created "for the purpose of collecting, preserving and occasionally publishing genealogical and historic matter relating to New England families, and for the establishment and maintenance of a cabinet", and also stipulated that the Society might "hold real and personal estate not to exceed $20,000". The "Cabinet" referred to the anticipated collection of rare and valuable books and documents, antiques, medals and similar exhibition pieces.

The immediate important duties of the officers were the enrollment of new members and the solicitation of accessions for the library. A circular was sent out at once announcing the formation of the Society and giving the purposes of the organization and soliciting members. A second circular of some 16 pages, communicating information regarding the Society and requesting contributions "in aid of the great objects" of the Society was issued in April 1846, presented the constitution and by-laws and gave a list of 53 resident, 83 corresponding and 14 honorary members.

The Society now legally launched upon its career was at once made the recipient of a miscellaneous collection of books, vital records, manuscripts and other material which obviously must be housed. Limited in means, only the most inexpensive quarters were warranted.

The first home of the Society was in the City Building on Court Square, where room 9 on the third floor was secured. It had an entrance from Court Square and three windows on Williams Court. John H. Sheppard, in a "Brief History" of the Society, published in 1862, gives a sombre but realistic picture of the quarters:

"We have described the birth of our Society; let us for a moment look at its struggles in Infancy. It began in poverty. No rich patron, nor benefactor, smiled on it as it stretched out its little arms. Its nursery was a solitary chamber, No. 9, in the third story of the 'City Building', so-called, Court Square; an out-of-the-way place, small, being only 12 feet square, badly lighted from back windows overlooking a dark alley—a room indeed sombre enough and poorly adapted to the wants of the little Genealogical stranger. An old table, troubled with the podagra—a chair or two which had seen better days—and a set of pine shelves without back or panel—this Pandora's box with only hope at the bottom. But as the Society held their meetings for business in the attic room of the Am. Ed. Soc. in Cornhill, this dark chamber was resorted to rather as a place for depositing donations. The amount of these donations for the year 1845, as appears by the Records, will show how small was that beginning . . . 24 volumes of books—10 pamphlets—6 plans—an old lease—4 bound volumes of the Independent Chronicle, 1804–1811—and 185 pamphlets, consisting of sermons, catalogues and miscellaneous matter *De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis;* besides, 'a wheelbarrow load of manuscript sermons'—as the record has it—'of Dr. Joseph Eckley, Old South Church.' These books were scattered on the shelves; but these pamphlets of the Infant Society, lay like swaddling clothes in a corner, where it slept."

But poorly equipped as it may have been in facilities and quarters for the carrying on of its great mission, the Society attracted to itself in a short time the support of a splendid following of distinguished and educated gentlemen, representatives of the best minds in all walks of life not only in New England but in the outside states of New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, and even in England. At the end of the first year of its existence, as previously stated, there were 53 resident, 83 corresponding and 14 honorary members, truly a remarkable endorsement of the vision of the founders.

The following is the membership roll as it stood on the books of the Society at the completion of its first year:

Resident Members

Charles Ewer, Esq., Boston
Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., Boston
William H. Montague, Boston
John W. Thornton, Esq., Boston
Samual G. Drake, Esq., Boston
Rev. Samuel H. Riddel, Boston
Edmund B. Dearborn, Boston
Rev. Lucius R. Paige, Cambridge
Rev. Frederick P. Tracy, Williamsburgh
Joseph Willard, Esq., Boston
Mr. Edward S. Erving, Boston
William Ingalls, M.D., Boston
Jonathan Mason, Esq., Boston
Rev. Chandler Robbins, Boston
Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., Boston
James S. Loring, Boston
George Winslow, Boston
Hon. Samuel T. Armstrong, Boston
Hon. Benjamin Vinton French, Randolph
Gen. William H. Sumner, Boston
John Henshaw, Esq., Cambridge
Henry Stevens, Esq., Boston
Hon. John G. Palfrey, LL.D., Boston
Charles H. Stedman, M.D., Boston
Rev. Thomas Whittemore, Cambridge
Rev. Frederick T. Gray, Boston
William Pitt Greenwood, Boston
William Powell Mason, Esq., Boston
Enoch Silsby, Esq., Boston
Solomon Lincoln, Esq., Hingham
Abner Phelps, M.D., Boston
Francis N. Mitchell, Boston

Charles Deane, Boston
William M. Greenough, A.M., Boston
Edward Tuckerman, LL.B., Boston
James M. Robbins, Boston
Horatio Gates Somerby, Boston
Andrew H. Ward, Newton
Thomas Bulfinch, Esq., Boston
David Reed, Boston
William J. Adams, Boston
William Reed Deane, Boston
Adolphus Davis, Boston
Wm. Thaddeus Harris, Cambridge
David Hamblen, Boston
Waldo Higginson, Boston
Wm. H. Kelly, Boston
Hon. Edward Everett, LL.D., Cambridge
Caleb Bates, Hingham
Rev. William J. Buddington, Charlestown
Nathaniel W. Coffin, Boston
Thomas Carter Smith, Boston

Corresponding Members

Samuel H. Parsons, Esq., Hartford, Conn.
John Daggett, Esq., Attleboro, Mass.
Hon. William Plummer, Jr., Epping, N. H.
Rev. Thomas Robbins, Hartford, Conn.
Hon. Nahum Mitchell, Boston
John Prentiss, Esq., Keene, N. H.
Edmund W. Toppan, Esq. Hampton, N. H.
John Barrow, Esq., F.S.A., London, Eng.
John Burke, Esq., London, Eng.
John Bernard Burke, Esq., London, Eng.
Mark Anthony Lower, Lewes, Eng.
Nathaniel G. Snelling, Esq., Boston
Rev. John Hutchinson, Blurton, Eng.
J. Athearn Jones, Esq., Tisbury, Mass.
Rev. Joseph B. Felt, Boston
Wm. Willis, Esq., Portland, Maine
Henry Bond, M.D., Philadelphia, Pa.
Josiah Adams, Esq., Framingham, Mass.
John Frost, LL.D., Philadelphia, Pa.
Joseph Dow, A.M., Hampton, N. H.
Rev. Eleazar Williams, Green Bay, Wis.
Samuel Ames, Esq., Providence, R. I.
Amos A. Tillinghast, Esq., Pawtucket, R. I.
Rev. Oliver Alden Taylor, Manchester, Mass.
Rev. Charles Rockwell, Boston
Hon. William D. Williamson, Bangor, Me.
John Howland, Esq., Providence, R. I.
Rev. Henry Gookin Storer, Scarborough, Me.
Hon. Frederick Allen, Bangor, Me.
John Ward, Esq., Hartford, Conn.
Rev. Samuel Chandler, Shirley, Mass.
John Appleton, Esq., Bangor, Me.
Hon. Stephen Fales, Cincinnati, Ohio
Hon. Lot E. Brewster, Cincinnati, Ohio
George Sparhawk, Esq., Kittery, Me.
Hon. George Folsom, New York City
Albert Gorton Greene, Esq., Providence, R. I.
Usher Parsons, M.D., Providence, R. I.
Elisha Thayer, M.D., Dedham, Mass.
Rev. H. O. Sheldon, Berea, Ohio
John Kelly, Esq., Exeter, N. H.
Rev. Charles W. Bradley, Hartford, Conn.
Gurdon Trumbull, Esq., Stonington, Conn.
Rev. Samuel Sewall, Burlington, Mass.
Samuel John Carr, Esq., Baltimore, Md.
George Brinley, Jr., Hartford, Conn.
Samuel Webber, Esq., Charleston, N. H.
Mellen Chamberlain, Brattleboro, Vt.
Ellis Ames, Esq., Canton, Mass.
Joshua Coffin, A.B., S.H.S., Newbury, Mass.
Benjamin F. Thompson, Esq., Hempstead, L. I.
Leonard Bacon, D.D., New Haven, Conn.
Samuel Whitcomb, Jr., Springfield, Vt.
Hon. Millard Fillmore, Buffalo, N. Y.
Hon. Charles K. Williams, Rutland, Vt.
Hon. James Whitcomb, Indianapolis, Ind.
Rev. William Tyler, Amherst, Mass.
Lewis Bradford, Esq., Plympton, Mass.
Erastus Smith, Esq., Hartford, Conn.
Samuel A. Turner, Scituate, Mass.
Nathaniel Chauncey, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.
Jacob B. Moore, Esq., Washington, D. C.
Hon. Oliver B. Morris, Springfield, Mass.
Andrew Randall, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio
Stephen W. Williams, M.D., Longmeadow, Mass.
John W. Gookin, Esq., No. Yarmouth, Me.
Ebenezer Alden, M.D., Northampton, Mass.
William Allen, M.D., Randolph, Mass.
Horace Day, New Haven, Conn.
Caleb Butler, Esq., Groton, Mass.
Ralph D. Smith, Esq., Guilford, Conn.

Charles J. Hoadley, Esq., Hartford, Conn.
Hon. William R. Staples, Providence, R. I.
Elial Todd Foote, Esq., Jamestown, N. Y.
Nathaniel Goodwin, Esq., Hartford, Conn.
Rev. William Cogswell, D.D., Gilmanton, N. H.
Hon. Wilkins Updike, Kingston, R. I.
John Andrews Howland, Providence, R. I.
Hon. Emory Washburn, Worcester, Mass.
Hon. Elisha R. Potter, Kingston, R. I.
Edwin Hubbard, Meriden, Conn.
Henry Wheatland, M.D., Salem, Mass.
Rev. William Ely, Northampton, Mass.

Honorary Members

Hon. John Quincy Adams, LL.D., Quincy, Mass.
Rt. Hon. Lord Lyndehurst, D.C.L., London, Eng.
(John Singleton Copley)
Rev. William Jenks, D.D., Boston
Daniel Greenleaf, Esq., Quincy
Hon. Samuel Appleton, Boston
Hon. George Bancroft, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
Hon. Josiah Quincy, LL.D., Boston
Hon. Harrison Gray Otis, Boston
Dr. John Pierce, Brookline, Mass.
David Sears, Boston
Ebenezer T. Andrews, Esq., Boston
Hermann E. Ludewig, Esq., Dresden, Saxony
Robert Gould Shaw, Boston
Dr. Benjamin Shurtleff, Boston

Millard Fillmore, who was vice president of the United States in 1849 and became president on the death of General Taylor in 1850, was elected a corresponding member of the Society in 1845 and an honorary member in 1854. He was honorary vice president from 1855 until his death in 1874.

A résumé of some of the subjects discussed in the formative days of the Society gives an idea of the energy, zeal and comprehensive intelligence with which our early members entered upon their work. Committees were appointed to investigate and provide for such activities as the following: Measures to preserve the printed notices of marriages and deaths, inscriptions upon tombstones in Boston and vicinity, to obtain abstracts of probate records, records of marriages "in the Old Colony Records", sets of directories and city registers, annual and triennial catalogues of colleges and seminaries of learning, a complete list of all names changed by act of legislatures in New England and copies of all town records in Massachusetts previous to 1700, also to set forth forms for family registers, etc.

On January 6, 1846, it was "Voted that a special committee be appointed to petition the legislature that a Record Commission be appointed to procure the printing of such early records as may be deemed expedient". This was the earliest movement in this direction although it was seven years before the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began to print the records of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies, edited by Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., and David Pulsifer, Esq., both members of the Society, the latter editing four volumes and transcribing several of the others.

During the first three years the directors sent out annually schedules of what was desired by the Society, indicating five classifications; printed volumes, manuscript documents, original records, newspapers and magazines, and all members were urged to coöperate. By June 1847 the Society had reached a membership of some 300, representation being had in the states already mentioned and in addition New Jersey, Kentucky, Illinois and Michigan, altogether 16

states, the District of Columbia, England and Saxony. The response had been prompt and generous and the foundation laid for the Society's library.

Even before the establishment of the splendid Boston Public Library, the library of the Society was open to the public. It had no endowment from the commonwealth or city, no revenue from shareholders. At the outset it was maintained by individuals who annually contributed their moiety through appreciation of the value of such an institution to the public and later aid came from funds established by those who had been giving liberally while living and remembered the Society in their last wills and testaments. By such slender means with gifts of volumes and documents from individuals the library was begun.

The Society was the first to collect and publish information relating to the founding of American families, and pilgrims from all sections of the country came through its doors, sat at its tables and consulted its volumes to obtain information from its archives, scanty at first but being constantly and steadily enriched with historic and genealogical lore not to be found in any other institution in the western hemisphere.

The donations from the founders and early members were small but they were precious and have become more valuable as time has gone on. There were the private libraries of the first president, Charles Ewer; of President William Whiting; costly records purchased in London by David Sears; one hundred volumes from the private library of Hon. Edward Everett; rare and valuable volumes from Hon. Nathan Appleton; several hundred books, many of them scarce and ancient, manuscripts and pamphlets, from Dr. Winslow Lewis; a most valuable bequest by Dr. Henry Bond of Philadelphia which included 1,000 copies of his History of Watertown to be sold for the benefit of the Society; Rolls of Parliament and Record Publications of Great Britain consisting of some 29 volumes, with three great folio volumes of plates from London, given by the London Society of Antiquaries; a bequest of $1,000 from Vice President John Barstow of Providence, R. I., for binding books; the splendid gift of Lieut. Gov. Henry W. Cushman of his library of 600 volumes and many manuscripts and 200 copies of the Cushman Genealogy, the latter to be sold to create a fund for buying and binding books. Then there were other gifts from the Royal Society of Norway and the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, giving evidence of the appreciation of the value and importance of the New England institution and endorsement of its work.

The value of individual contributions for the enrichment of the reference resources of the library cannot be better illustrated than by the following incident:

William H. Montague, one of the founders, in August 1844, had been appointed debenture clerk in the custom house at Boston. While holding this post he had occasion one morning to go early to his office. He arrived as the janitor was preparing to start the fires. His attention being attracted to the paper the janitor was using as kindling he picked up and examined some of the sheets. To his

great surprise he found what the janitor was using as kindling were the returns of the United States Direct Tax of 1798 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the district of Maine. He asked the janitor where he got the paper and was shown a large pile of these returns in a corner. Directions were given that no more of them should be destroyed and application was made to have them deposited in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which, after some delay, was granted.

These Direct Tax Records of 1798 contained an inventory of all the buildings and lands in the state, and district of Maine, with their valuation, the names of every owner and every occupant, and the individual tax for each, as of 1798.

Having thus been rescued, unfortunately not until after quite a few of the town returns had been destroyed, the remaining records were bound, making some twenty thick folio volumes, and are now safely housed in the vaults of the Society. Although similar records were made for all the states the returns of no other state are known to have been preserved, although duplicate returns for each state were made, one of which was sent to Washington.

William B. Towne of Milford, N. H., long an officer of the Society, donated $2,000, the income from which was to be used for the preparation and publication of memoirs of deceased members of the Society. Later he increased the gift to $5,000.

A highly prized relic which has graced the halls of the Society from the first day is the mahogany Pierpont table, the handiwork of Rev. John Pierpont, A.M., which was purchased for use in the first room occupied by the Society on Court Square and still graces the parlors at 9 Ashburton Place.

One can hardly appreciate the wide range covered by these early gifts and publications, revealed only by an intensive study of the archives of the Society. Piled on shelves in its vaults, and carefully indexed, one finds the charters of cities and towns, abstracts of early wills, historical discourses long out of print, lists of college graduates, memoirs of the early fathers of New England, town histories in bound volume and manuscript, records of naval and military expeditions and of Indian wars, church records, monument inscriptions, private and official letters, family records of genealogists who did not live to complete their work, in fact a wealth of historical and genealogical material germane to the general purposes of the Society, preserving in definite and accessible form pictures of the past. No one can write a true history of the New England field without consulting these files, intimate and priceless as they are.

Up to the time of the organization of the Society there had been prepared and published only some 41 town histories throughout all New England. The Society encouraged and fostered this work and by the end of the first quarter century of its life there had been printed 137 such histories, for which much credit must go to the influence and activity of the Society and its early members. Moreover, the quality and value of the histories had been vastly improved.

Special efforts were made to collect publications relating to centennial exercises of churches, military organizations and similar

associations with the result that between 500 and 1,000 such pamphlets were gathered and preserved in the early years.

Coincident with the organization of the Society the thoughts of the founders had been directed strongly to the promotion of a publication which should appear quarterly and record for all-time preservation "the decaying records of New England". It was not enough that priceless ancient documents and records should be gathered together and preserved; to secure their broadest usefulness as conceived in the minds of the founders it was important that they be incorporated in such form as to be accessible to the Society's members and become available to the historical investigators of all time.

With no endowment and small funds at hand the publication of a genealogical journal was a bold ambition. But faith and a noble purpose prevailed and in accord with carefully thought out plans there appeared in January 1847 the first number of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Even on the lapse of nearly a hundred years the initial issue impresses one as remarkable for its variety, charm and interest of subjects treated, careful editing, attractive arrangement and, notable in itself, the typography which, as the highest praise which can be given it, was so satisfying that it has been maintained almost without variation down to the present day.

For 98 years now THE REGISTER has continued its appearance, quarterly each year, without a single omission, the editorial conduct and literary management continuously under the auspices and direction of the Society, until today the publication ranks as the oldest and most outstanding genealogical journal in the world.

The first editor of THE REGISTER was Rev. William Cogswell, D.D., of Boston, who carried the work through the first year, with Samuel G. Drake acting as the publisher. Later Mr. Drake took over the editorship and assumed the responsibility for publication during some fifteen years. The complete list of editors and publishers for the first quarter century is as follows:

Editors: Vol. I, Rev. William Cogswell, D.D. Vol. II, Samuel G. Drake, A.M. Vol. III, Jan., Samuel G. Drake, A.M.; Apr., July, Oct., William T. Harris, A.M. Vol. IV, Jan., Samuel G. Drake; Apr., July, Oct., Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D. Vol. V, Samuel G. Drake. Vol. VI, Jan. and Apr., Rev. Joseph B. Felt, LL.D.; July, Hon. T. Farrar, LL.D.; Oct., William B. Trask. Vols. VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, Samuel G. Drake. Vols. XIII, XIV, William B. Trask, William H. Whitmore, A.M., and John Ward Dean, A.M. Vol. XV, Samuel G. Drake. Vol. XVI, Jan., William B. Trask; Apr., Rev. Elias Nason, A.M.; July, Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M.; Oct., John Ward Dean. Vol. XVII, John Ward Dean. Vol. XVIII, Jan., Apr., William B. Trask; July, Oct., John Ward Dean. Vol. XIX, William B. Trask. Vols. XX, XXI, Rev. Elias Nason. Vols. XXII, XXIII, XXIV, Albert Harrison Hoyt, A.M.

The primary purpose of THE REGISTER was to provide a repertory of hitherto unpublished historical and genealogical material, important in itself, and essential to a good understanding of New

England history in its broadest and most comprehensive sense. To be stressed at all times were the origins and ancestries of New England families. It was also provided that sketches of the lives of deceased members and memoirs of the early settlers, with portraits, should be printed, these to be prepared by an historiographer, which office was created in October 1855 by the selection of Rev. Joseph Palmer, D.D., who served for six years, was succeeded by William Blake Trask of Dorchester, who also served six years, and was, in turn, succeeded by Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D. It was intended that the memoirs and biographies should eventually be consolidated into bound volumes and by the end of the first quarter century nearly 200 such sketches and memoirs had been prepared and published.

As the library had been created by personal contributions of members, so was the magazine supplied with articles by members and those having a personal interest in the purposes of the Society. Thus THE REGISTER was able to publish, during the first 24 years of its existence alone, the genealogical outlines of 281 New England families, beginning with the immigrant, or earlier, ancestor.

It has been the pride and recognized reputation of THE REGISTER throughout not only these early years, but for nearly a century, that its published material has been so carefully prepared, analyzed and checked as to give a reliable, truthful and accurate presentation of historical and genealogical data with unyielding fidelity.

During the Civil War, when there seemed some question as to whether THE REGISTER could be continued, The Register Club was formed, in the summer of 1864, to assure the continuance of the quarterly. The members pledged themselves to bear the responsibility for its publication which they did until 1874 when the Society again assumed the responsibility and the club was dissolved. The roster of that loyal band of supporters, and the years they served, reads as follows:

THE REGISTER CLUB

Winslow Lewis, M.D.	1865, 1866, 1869, 1871.
William Blanchard Towne, A.M.	1865–1874.
Frederic Kidder	1865–1874.
Charles Sumner Fellows	1865–1874.
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1865–1874.
William Henry Whittemore, A.M.	1865, 1866, 1868, 1869.
William Sumner Appleton, A.M.	1865, 1868, 1870.
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1865–1870, 1872.
John Kimball Wiggin	1865–1868.
John Ward Dean, A.M.	1865–1874.
Jeremiah Colburn, A.M.	1865–1874.
John Merrill Bradbury	1865–1868.
Deloraine Pendre Corey	1865–1874.
Edward Sprague Rand, Jr., A.M.	1865, 1866, 1868.
George Washington Messinger (Hon.)	1865.
Alonzo Hall Quint, D.D.	1865, 1866, 1870.
Calvin Fletcher, A.M.	1865, 1866.
Almon Danforth Hodges	1865.
David Clapp	1865.
Henry Martyn Dexter, D.D.	1865.
Charles Wesley Tuttle, A.M.	1866–1874.
Ebenezer Weaver Peirce	1866.

William Reed Deane	1866–1869.
Francis French	1866.
Edmund Farwell Slafter, D.D.	1867–1872, 1874
Elias Nason (Rev.), A.M.	1868.
Albert Harrison Hoyt, A.M.	1868–1874.
Marshall Pinckney Wilder, LL.D.	1868–1874.
Henry Herbert Edes	1870–1874.
Dorus Clarke, D.D.	1871–1873.
Thomas Waterman	1871, 1872.
George Henry Preble, U.S.N.	1871–1874.
John Hannibal Sheppard, A.M.	1872, 1873.
Lucius Robinson Paige, D.D.	1874.

Inquiry frequently arises as to why the name of the Society is "The New England Historic Genealogical Society", while the name of its quarterly publication is "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register". It appears that the founders had difficulty in arriving at unanimous agreement upon a name and "The England Historic Genealogical Society" was the compromise. A year later, when the magazine was proposed, sentiment crystallized in favor of "Historical and Genealogical" with the result the magazine was named "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register". Desirous of making the titles synonymous, the Society went to the legislature in 1857 seeking permission to have the name of the Society changed to "The New England Historical and Genealogical Society", but opposition developed, the legislature denied the request, and no further effort has been made to change either title.

About 1857 the *Historical Magazine* was started in Boston by members of the Society to encourage and facilitate historical studies, and to provide means for putting into print the overflow of material which came to the Society. The first volume was edited by John Case Dean but after some time the office of publication was removed to New York City.

Still another organization which members of the Society sponsored was the Prince Society, formed in 1858, and named in honor of Rev. Thomas Prince, for the purpose of encouraging the publication of rare works, in print or manuscript, relating to America. The officers and council were formed entirely from members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and included Samuel Gardner Drake as president; J. W. Dean, J. W. Thornton and Rev. E. F. Slafter as vice presidents; William H. Whitmore and William S. Appleton as secretaries and Jeremiah Colburn as treasurer. Some six quarto volumes were issued before the Society was given up.

From the earliest times the closest and most friendly relations existed with the Essex Institute of Salem. It is also of interest to record that the first president and first vice president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, founded in 1869, were members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Early in 1864 a standing committee was appointed by the Society to collect and preserve information in regard to heraldry in New England. The appointment of this committee elicited a large amount of information on the subject, interesting in itself, and directly tending to develop and elucidate family history. Before

the termination of the year it became apparent the best results would follow the printing of the material as fast as collected and the committee undertook the publication of a serial, under the title of the *Heraldic Journal*, which it subsequently completed in four octavo volumes. In them the whole subject of coat-armor in New England, especially in its relation to family history, was fully and clearly developed. The nature of the evidence which determines the right to use arms is luminously set forth, and the volumes are liberally illustrated with the engraved arms of over 200 New England families and the whole work is replete with historical and genealogical information. The volumes, even today, stand alone as a standard of reference in the field which they cover.

The committee which accomplished this outstanding task consisted of William H. Whitmore, A.M., Augustus T. Perkins, A.M., and William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston; Abner C. Goodell, Jr., A.M., of Salem, and Rev. William S. Bartlet, A.M., of Chelsea. Edward S. Rand, Jr., A.M., was added to the committee in 1870. Mr. Whitmore edited volumes one, two and four and Mr. Appleton volume three.

Throughout the life of THE REGISTER this department has been maintained, contributions being made from time to time by qualified and eminent authorities on heraldry both here and abroad.

Through its earliest years the Society attained prestige through its practice of printing and distributing printed copies of notable historical and scientific addresses delivered by its members, or by others before the Society. Many valuable discourses were thus preserved which otherwise might have gone into oblivion. Such was the address on the "Centennial of the Death of Major Gen. James Wolfe", delivered before both branches of the legislature at the State House in 1859 by Mr. Lorenzo Sabine; that on "New England Architecture" by Rev. N. H. Chamberlain in 1858; on "Further Traces of the Ancient Northmen in America" by Rev. Abner Morse and the "Life and Character of Hon. John A. Andrew" by Rev. Elias Nason in 1868; "The Tercentenary of the Birth of Shakespeare" by Rev. James Freeman Clarke, D.D., in 1864; "In Memoriam of Edward Everett" by President Winslow Lewis, M.D., in 1865; and "Eulogy on Abraham" by Rev. Elias Nason in 1865, to name but a few.

Consecrated to unprejudiced truth and accuracy in things historical and genealogical, the Society was not slow to challenge questionable public statements, even when they emanated from such a source as the outstanding historian George Bancroft. The latter's reference to Col. Timothy Pickering of Salem, whose Revolutionary record was impugned by the historian, called forth an exhaustive and, it would seem, convincing refutal by the Society.

By far the greatest burden of the accumulation and orderly assortment of the historical and genealogical material of those early years, as today, fell upon those who served as librarians. J. Wingate Thornton served during the first year and was followed in 1846–48 by Edmund B. Dearborn. David Pulsifer officiated in 1849–50 and was followed in 1851 by Thomas Bellows Wyman, Jr., who also carried on during the fall and winter of 1856–57. William B. Trask

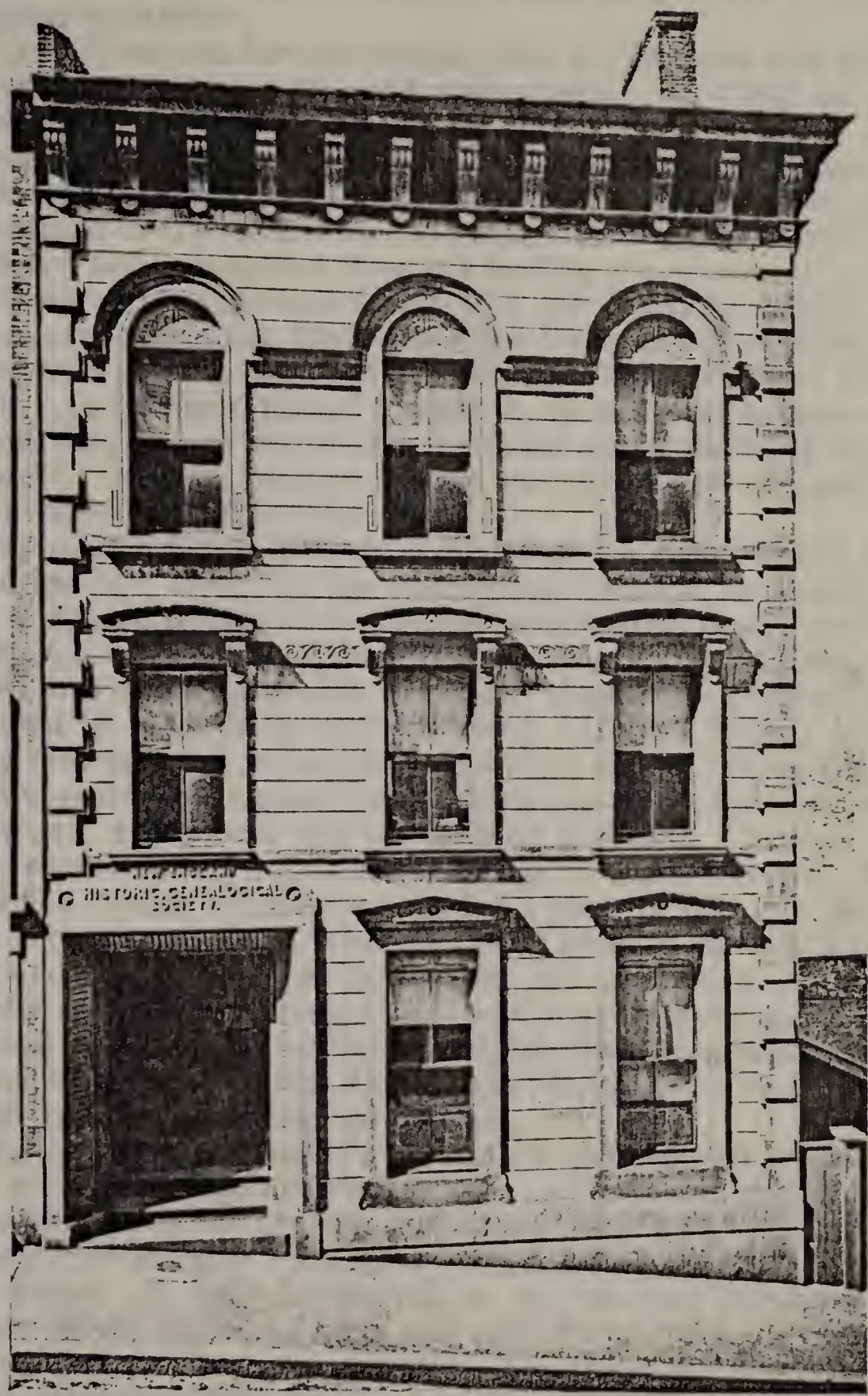
was an ardent supporter of the Society in many ways and he served as librarian in 1852–54 and again in 1859–60. Rev. Luther Farnham served in 1854–56, Edward Holden in 1858–59 and John H. Sheppard carried on from 1861 to 1869.

By the end of the first quarter century of its existence the Society could point with pride to the more than 8,000 volumes of bound books on its shelves and more than 26,000 pamphlets, dealing with historical and genealogical matters, by far the greater part of which had resulted from the voluntary contributions of its members or those interested in the Society. There were, also, the outlines or completed genealogies of 281 New England families in the files of the Society's publication, THE REGISTER.

Reference has been made to the first "home" of the Society in the graphic description of Mr. Sheppard. As the Society grew in numbers and historical and genealogical accumulations it became necessary to secure larger quarters. The first room on Court Square, which had served little more than as a storage space, was used from February 1845 until October 1847. On the latter date the Society moved its belongings across Williams Court to the first floor of what was then the Massachusetts Block, later the site of the Sherman House, where slightly larger quarters were available. On January 1, 1851 the "library" was a second time removed, this time to an 18 by 24 foot room on the third floor of 5 Tremont Street. These quarters provided the first really habitable and workable location the Society had occupied and were made use of for the next seven or eight years.

The fourth home of the Society was at 13 Bromfield Street, where the Society entered upon commodious, well-lighted quarters of an entire floor, utilizing all of the 18 by 53 feet of the third story. This convenient and substantial headquarters served the Society for the next twelve years, or until the end of the first quarter century.

Toward the close of 1869 the desire and need for a permanent home of its own became more urgent and was a constant topic of discussion at Society meetings. A committee was accordingly selected to seek out a suitable location and determine the means of financing the purchase. Providentially, almost immediately after naming of the committee, a building which had attracted their attention was thrown on the market, at 18 Somerset Street, on the side of Beacon Hill. It was an ancient mansion, four story brick, built in 1805, and had housed a number of prominent Boston families. With some remodelling it would take care of the needs of the Society for many years to come, it was believed. Immediate decision was necessary, and the committee bid in the property for $20,000. As the Society was without sufficient funds to meet the purchase price, or make the needed alterations, it became necessary to open a subscription. This was done and in an incredibly short time the grand sum of $43,150 had been raised. The last days of the first quarter century of the life of the Society found its members enthusiastically occupied in making ready to enter upon the occupation of its own permanent home.



18 SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON

HOME OF THE SOCIETY 1870–1912

The New England Historic Genealogical Society was served by eight presidents during the first quarter century of its existence. The one name which stands at the head of its list of members and to whom, more than to any other, belongs the credit of having originated the Society, is that of Charles Ewer, Esq., the first president, who continued in that office during the first five years of the Society's struggling existence.

Charles Ewer was born in Boston Sept. 4, 1790, of a very respectable and pious family, with good connections. As a boy he was not physically strong but intellectually was a superior child, a great reader of good books and familiar with the Bible. He attended the Old South church, but did not believe in Calvinistic doctrines and was inclined to Unitarianism. He was witty and could well imitate the speech and manners of Boston's leading preachers. He excelled in writing and mathematics and won the Franklin medal. After some apprenticeship in Boston retail and wholesale stores he went to Newburyport and conducted a bookstore, later removed to Portsmouth. In 1816 he returned to Boston, opened a bookstore at Cornhill and Washington Street and published many books of outstanding merit. In this venture he was successful and accumulated a comfortable fortune, for the times.

Unappreciated and probably unknown by most of the present generation Mr. Ewer, by his marvellous foresight and energy, did more to arouse Boston to its greater possibilities than many others who have since been highly honored in monuments and history. He labored and spent his money to reform abuses of a political nature. He aided in organizing the Middling Interest Society and was chiefly instrumental in bringing about the election of two Republican governors. But most outstanding was his vision of Boston's waterfront, its suburbs and its railroad facilities. He was behind the movement which built the free bridge to South Boston. He projected and carried out almost unaided a plan for filling in the marsh lands of the South Cove, adding over 80 acres to the city's building area, and when this was completed, he proceeded, against tremendous opposition, to induce the Old Colony and Newport, Boston, Hartford and Erie railroads to establish their terminals jointly on the new lands of the South Cove, thus paving the way for Boston's present great South Terminal Station.

Long interested in Boston's mercantile and business interests, Mr. Ewer, with great vision and confidence, undertook to give impetus to a new movement to advance the retail trade by providing a definite center of activity. He owned a home on Washington Street, at Avon Place. In 1823 he started to put his new plan into effect. He tore down his own home and had Avon Place extended as a thoroughfare to Chauncey Street. On the new Avon Street he erected fourteen new, four-story, hammered granite faced buildings, of which the street floors were for stores, with dwellings above. Similarly, he erected along Washington Street, adjoining Avon Street, some eight more similar structures. It marked the beginning of Boston's present day retail trade center and marked a new era of prosperity for Boston merchants. Unfortunately for Mr. Ewer, it

caused the loss of his personal fortunes. Those who had promised to advance finances for the development did not make good and the properties, in which he had sunk his own personal fortune, eventually went to others who, not so very long after, were able to realize hundreds of thousands of dollars from the development.

Charles Ewer never sought or received monetary compensation in consideration for his life-long service to the community, or personal honors. He took a deep satisfaction in preserving many historic shrines and the crowning satisfaction of his life was the establishment of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, to which he gave his library of 1500 volumes.

He passed away in Portsmouth, N. H., on Nov. 12, 1853 at the age of 63 years, and lies buried in the Old Granary, on Tremont Street, in Boston.

One name on the Society rolls in the early years, fraught with mystery, speculation, controversy and international romance, was that of Rev. Eleazer Williams, who, at his own solicitation, became a corresponding member June 7, 1846.

A century ago his name was on the lips of thousands throughout the land, in France, England and other countries. Historians, genealogists, high officials in state and nations, wrote pages about him in current magazines, until the mystery became an international problem of great moment and, moreover, one which was never solved.

"Louis XVII and Eleazer Williams, were they really the same person?" was the question which stirred the peoples of two continents, for Rev. Eleazer Williams, an Episcopal clergyman, who lived and preached among the Indians at St. Regis, in New York state, and was presumably one of their race, was put forward as the real lost Dauphin of France, son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, about whom there had always been a question whether or not he had died in the tower of the Temple in France on June 9, 1795. Writers of Dartmouth lore had claimed he at one time attended Dartmouth College. Intimate details of his whole life, his strange adoption by an Indian woman, mysterious conferences with French representatives, his striking resemblance to Louis XVI, were brought forward to substantiate the claim he was actually the famous lost Dauphin.

Reverend Williams was a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society from June 7, 1846 until his death in Hogansburg, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1858. The mystery was never solved, but certainly no other member of our Society in all its long years could more appropriately have sought asylum in its genealogical atmosphere.

Joseph Barlow Felt, LL.D., the second president of the Society, was born in Salem, Mass., Dec. 22, 1789 and died there Sept. 8, 1869. He attended Atkinson, N. H., academy and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1813, teaching school during his college course. After some teaching later in private schools he prepared for the ministry and was licensed to preach in 1815. He became interested in the historical and genealogical and gave addresses on these topics and contributed to Farmer's New England Genealogical Register. He published "Annals of Salem" and "History of Ipswich, Essex and Hamilton" and in 1830 was elected to the Massachusetts Historical

Society. He became a frequent contributor to historical and genealogical magazines and supplied a large portion of a volume of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collection. In April 1836 he was commissioned by Governor Everett to arange the ancient papers in the state archives and arranged and classified 241 bound volumes. In 1845 he was sent to England to obtain duplicates of provincial papers and records, and traveled in France, Scotland and Ireland. In 1842 he was chosen librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society and held that office for 12 years. In 1839 he published his "History of Massachusetts Currency", an invaluable work. From 1839 to 1859 he was recording secretary of the American Statistical Society, of which he was one of the founders, and in 1841 was elected a member of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries. He was elected corresponding member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in April 1845, resident member in June 1847 and honorary member in 1855. He was elected president Jan. 2, 1850 and served for three years, acting as editor of THE REGISTER in January and April 1852. In 1854 he was chosen secretary of the Congregational Library Association and librarian the next year. In 1857 Dartmouth conferred on him the degree of LL.D. Notwithstanding he suffered from his college days with an affliction of the eyes his writings were extensive and of great value, and he was considered one of the most diligent, learned and eminent antiquarians and annalists which America had produced. Some of his other works were: "Fasts and Thanksgivings of New England"; "Collections for the American Statistical Association on Towns, Population and Taxation"; "Memoir of Roger Conant"; "Genealogical Items of Gloucester"; "Memoir of Hugh Peter"; "Kidd Papers"; "Memoir of Francis Higginson"; "Sketch of Abigail Brown"; "Memorial of William S. Shaw"; "Who Was the First Governor of Massachusetts?"; "Customs of New England" and "Ecclesiastical History of New England".

William Whiting, the third president, was an eminent Boston attorney with a national reputation. He was a descendant of Rev. Samuel Whiting, D.D., who came from England in 1636. Mr. Whiting graduated from Harvard in 1833 and received his LL.D. degree in 1838. He was deeply absorbed in legal studies and was among the first of his profession to claim the United States had, under the Constitution, full belligerent rights against those who inhabited the states in rebellion, a principle he incorporated in a work on the "War Powers Under the Constitution of the United States", a work which contributed greatly to the solution of many difficult war problems. Within eight years 43 editions of the volume were printed. He served as solicitor and special counsellor of the war department from 1862 to 1865. In 1872 he was elected to Congress. He was a life member of the Society, admitted in 1852 and its president from 1853 to 1858. During his administration 121 resident, 79 corresponding and 7 honorary members were admitted to the Society, among the latter being President Millard Fillmore. He was also a corresponding member of the historical societies of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Florida and of the Philadelphia Numismatic

and Antiquarian Society. He was born in Concord, Mass., March 3, 1813 and died in Roxbury, Mass., June 29, 1873.

Samuel Gardner Drake, one of the five founders of the Society, its first corresponding secretary and the fourth president, serving in the latter position in 1858, was a native of Pittsfield, N. H., born Oct. 11, 1798. Son of a farmer, he became a country storekeeper and schoolmaster, then came to Boston to enter a mercantile position with his uncle. Later he resumed teaching for five years and in 1824 turned his attention to book selling and publishing. In 1830 he opened an antiquarian bookstore on Cornhill in Boston and in 1845 became associated with those who formed the New England Historic Genealogical Society. In 1858 he went to Europe where he pursued his historical investigations until May 1860. His publications, knowledge of French, and historical studies abroad, won him the honorary degree of M.A. from Union College and he became a member of the Society of Northern Antiquarians of Copenhagen and several historical societies. Some of his publications were "The Book of the Indians", 1833; "Indian Captivities", 1839; "The History of Boston", 1856; "The Result of Researches Among the British Archives", 1860 and "The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh", 1862. In 1847 he was largely responsible for the establishment of THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER and he rendered the Society his greatest service when for fifteen years he both edited and published the magazine. He passed away in Boston June 14, 1875.

Almon Danforth Hodges, of Roxbury, Mass., fifth president of the Society, in 1859 and 1860, was born in Norton, Mass., Jan. 25, 1801 and died in Portsmouth, N. H., Sept. 27, 1878. After working in a cotton mill and grocery store in Providence and a mercantile house in Boston he established a grocery firm in Providence in 1824 which he conducted for 22 years. He took an active part in the Dorr Rebellion, on the side of the legitimate government, and was appointed by the governor of Rhode Island lieutenant colonel of the Providence City Guards, a regiment of 1000 men, which he commanded for several months. He was also the first commander of the Providence Horse Guards. In 1844 he was elected to the General Assembly in Rhode Island. He removed to Boston in 1845 and was for the next five years head of the firm of Hodges, Emmons and Weld. In 1850 he was elected president of the Washington Bank. During his administration 103 resident, 87 corresponding and 4 honorary members were enrolled, among them Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

Winslow Lewis, M.D., a native of Boston, who had few if any superiors in his knowledge of anatomy and surgery in the country, was the sixth president of the Society, serving from 1860 to 1866. He was born July 8, 1799, graduated from Harvard in 1819 and died Aug. 3, 1875. He went to Europe to perfect himself in his medical knowledge and studied in Paris and London. He began practice in Boston in 1828 but much preferred teaching to practice, at one time having over 400 private pupils. A second trip was made to Europe and Dr. Lewis again resumed practice in Boston in 1853.

He had a love for antiquarian research and the Latin classics. He translated from the French a medical work on the brain by Gall, in six volumes, and edited Paxton's Anatomy. He served as a state representative in 1835, 1852 and 1853; as overseer of Harvard from 1856 to 1868; counsellor of the Massachusetts Medical Society, member of the American Medical Society of Paris and was for three years grand master of the Masonic order in Massachusetts. He was made a life member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1863 and the Society was greatly indebted to him for his valuable donation to its library of several hundred volumes, many of them very rare. During his administration François P. G. Guizot, LL.D., F.S.A., the eminent French historian, became an honorary member of the Society.

John Albion Andrew, LL.D., war governor of Massachusetts, became the seventh president of the Society in 1866. He was born in Windham, Maine, May 1, 1818, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1837 and began the practice of law in Boston. He was a leading anti-slavery advocate and of pronounced ideas and unquenchable force which made him far from being an ideal candidate for public office. But the Civil War, with its great state problems, found in him the indispensable man of the hour and he was swept into office. Sage in counsel, fervent in his addresses to the people, an eloquent and forcible orator, he accomplished marvels in rapid enlistments, equipment of soldiers and the fulfilment of all his duties so that history records him as one of the greatest war governors of that period. He had become a life member of the Society in 1863, was elected president in 1866 and again in 1867, but did not live to fill out his second year, passing away Oct. 30, 1867.

Marshall Pinckney Wilder, the eighth president of the Society, under whom the Society completed its first quarter of a century and entered upon the second, was one of the most prominent citizens of Boston for some sixty years. He was born in Rindge, N. H., Sept. 22, 1798, attended New Ipswich, N. H., Academy and early chose agriculture as his life's pursuit. He worked in his father's store, of which he became a partner, and served as postmaster. At 16 he entered the militia, at 25 was made lieutenant colonel and at 26 became colonel of the regiment. He moved to Boston in 1825, became a member of the firm of Wilder and Payson and soon after was in the firm of Parker, Wilder and Co., one of the strongest dry goods commission houses in Boston, and the oldest. He was chosen captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co. in 1856 and was prominent in Masonry. He never gave up his love for agriculture and was an early member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and from 1840 its president for eight years. He was also first president of the American Pomological Society and held that office at his death. He was president of the Norfolk Agricultural Society and influential in establishing the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture of which later he was president in 1851 and 1852. He was also prominent in the organization of the United States Agricultural Society and became its president and aided in the development of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He

was state representative in 1839, member of the executive council in 1849, and in 1850 a member of the state senate and its president. He joined the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1850 and in 1868 was elected its president, being reëlected every year thereafter while he lived, his death occurring on Dec. 16, 1886. His final efforts in behalf of the Society were devoted to securing a new permanent home and raising money for the purchase of the same at 18 Somerset Street and for the equipment of the quarters. He spared neither himself, time, strength or money in behalf of the Society through many years.

John Wingate Thornton was one of the founders of the Society, its first secretary, a life member, and, after THE REGISTER was established, one of its most frequent contributors. He was born in Saco, Maine, Aug. 12, 1818 and died in Scarborough, Maine, June 6 1878. He graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1840 and received the degree of A.M. from Bowdoin in 1860. He came to Boston in 1860 and began the practice of law. He was an industrious and energetic student of history, a brilliant orator, made many notable addresses, and was a frequent contributor to *The Transcript.* Besides being intensely interested in the New England Historic Genealogical Society he was also a member of the Statistical, Prince and Antiquarian societies. During his life he accumulated many rare books and autographs, and he published a number of historical and genealogical works.

Lemuel Shattuck was another of the founders of the Society, its first vice president and the second of the founders to pass away. He won a national reputation as the first to bring about the preservation, printing and exchange of municipal and state public records; as instigator of laws for collecting and preserving vital statistics by forms which became a model for all states; as originator of a new plan for census-taking in city, state and nation and he was responsible for a sanitary survey of Massachusetts, "the first great step in the sanitary work of our times". He also instigated and encouraged the development of education through week-day and Sunday schools and was an outstanding writer on statistical, historical and genealogical subjects. He was born in Ashby, Mass., Oct. 15, 1793 and died in Boston Jan. 17, 1859. His schooling was confined to two quarters in an academy after which he taught in Troy and Albany, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich. For many years he was a bookseller in Cambridge and Boston and published many standard and valuable works. He served in the Boston City Council for five years and also in the state legislature. His work on the census of Boston led to his being called to Washington in connection with the census of 1850 and he prepared five of the six schedules used in that survey. He published a "History of Concord", a 250-page report on census taking which was a model, and a 500-page sanitary report on Massachusetts, also the Shattuck Memorial, and genealogies of the Minot, Winslow, Baxter, Blood, Chamberlain and Parker families. He was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the American Antiquarian Society and in 1839 aided in founding the American Statistical Association, of which latter he was secretary and librarian.

William Henry Montague was the last survivor of the founders of the Society. He was born in Granby, Mass., Feb. 29, 1804 and died in Boston May 15, 1889. His father was an Episcopal clergyman who had served in the Revolutionary War and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1784. He followed his father about as he preached and received his education in schools of the towns where his father ministered, and had some private instruction. In 1822 he entered a dry goods store in Boston and at his majority began business for himself and became very successful. He was a great reader and frequent contributor to the periodical press, and was fortunate in being thrown into contact with prominent and learned men of the day who were his father's friends. The first meeting to consider the formation of the Society was held at his house. It is interesting that he entertained his associates by displaying a bullet taken from the body of Gen. Joseph Warren after the Battle of Bunker Hill (now in the Society's Cabinet) and by treating them to apples grown on a tree planted by Peregrine White, the first white child born in New England, and pears from a tree planted by Governor Endicott at Salem. He became the first treasurer of the Society and served for six years and subsequently was on many committees. He was also an honorary member of the Dedham Historical Society and assisted in forming the Bostonian Society. For many years he was employed in the Boston Custom House and at this time secured for the Society one of its most valuable contributions, mentioned previously. He took great interest in the Montague family and prepared a genealogy of the family which he intended printing, but failing eyesight prevented.

The close of the first quarter century of the Society's existence found it with 450 resident and life, and 84 honorary, members upon its rolls, as compared with 135 resident and corresponding, and 14 honorary, members at the end of its first full year.

The eminence and influence attained by the Society in the historic-genealogical field through the twenty-five years can be best attested by a review of some of the outstanding names which appeared on its membership rolls in that period:

Pres. John Quincy Adams (U.S.A.)
Gov. John A. Andrew (Mass.)
Rev. Horatio Alger
Amos Bronson Alcott
George Bancroft
Rev. Henry Ward Beecher
William Cullen Bryant
Rufus Choate
Henry Clay
John Singleton Copley (London)
Mellen Chamberlain
Lewis Cass
Rev. James Freeman Clarke
Gov. John Davis (Mass.)
Gov. Edward Everett (Mass.)
Pres. Millard Fillmore (U.S.A.)
François P. G. Guizot (France)
Pres. Ulysses S. Grant (U.S.A.)
Rev. Edward Everett Hale
Thomas W. Higginson
Washington Irving
Gov. Harrison Gray Otis (Mass.)
William H. Prescott
Josiah Quincy
Pres. Jared Sparks (Harvard)
Earl Stanhope (England)
Pres. Asa Dodge Smith (Dartmouth)
William D. Ticknor
Daniel Webster
John Greenleaf Whittier

THE SECOND QUARTER CENTURY

The New England Historic Genealogical Society entered upon the second quarter century of its existence with redundant enthusiasm and aspiration, exultant in the realization that at long last it was housed in a permanent home, a building of its own, favorably located and adequate for its needs for many years to come.

President Marshall P. Wilder had conducted the real estate deal whereby the attractive private dwelling at 18 Somerset Street became the property of the Society at a cost, with new furnishings, of some $43,500.

The building was one that had been erected in 1805 as a private dwelling and had been so used by a number of well-known Boston families until purchased by the Society March 12, 1870. The builder had been the Hon. Daniel Davis, solicitor general of the Commonwealth, who lived next door in the house in which was born his distinguished son, Rear Admiral Charles R. Davis, U.S.N. In fact the whole neighborhood was of high standing. Across the street from the Society's new building, on the east side, stood the early home of Hon. James Lloyd, where Lafayette was entertained in 1825. A short distance north, also on the east side, Daniel Webster had for a time resided. The First Baptist Church and the Congregational House, in which latter were printed the "Congregationalist" and "Literary World", had quarters on the street. The record office for deeds and wills and the City Hall were close by, as were the Boston Athenaeum and state library in the State House. It was an ideal location for the historical and genealogical savants.

The building was constructed of brick, strongly built, four stories in height with a frontage of 29 feet and depth of 42 feet, and a two-story extension in the rear of some 22 by 13 feet. The front was of attractive concrete stone in blocks, with heavy sandstone caps over windows and doors, exactly as it appears today, now occupied by a department of Simmons College.

There were three rooms on the first floor, one for pamphlets, one for directors' meetings, and a rear room in which an attempt had been made at fireproofing to house valuable books and documents. The second floor also had three rooms, two used for reception and arrangements of books and pamphlets and the third, 40 by 20 feet, accommodating the main library. The third and fourth stories of the original structure were thrown into one room to be used for public meetings of the Society. The lighting, for many years, was provided by gas fixtures and chandeliers. In these, for the time sumptuous, quarters the Society was to remain for 35 years.

President Wilder, wealthy and prosperous Boston Merchant, although active in many civic affairs, was tremendously interested in the New England Historic Genealogical Society and gave unstintingly of his time and wealth to its advancement He served the So-

ciety as president for 18 years, from 1868 to 1886. He raised $45,125 as a building fund when the new home was purchased. Later he secured $14,075 for the support of the library and a short time before his death personally secured an additional subscription of $25,000. In fact during his connection with the office of president the Society received between $80,000 and $90,000 through his efforts.

With such means and gifts of volumes and documents from individuals the Society in its second quarter century made its library a valuable and attractive institution available to the entire country. At the turn of the half century, in 1895, there were 30,000 bound volumes, 50,000 pamphlets and hundreds of other valuable manuscripts in its possession.

One example alone will suffice to give an idea of the inestimable value of some of the documents which were added to the archives of the Society about this time. On June 4, 1873 Rear Admiral Henry Knox Thatcher, who during the later years of his life had taken a great interest in the Society, presented to the Society the letters and papers of his grandfather, Gen. Henry Knox, of Revolutionary fame. The letters and manuscripts numbered between 11,000 and 12,000 items, filling 56 massive folio volumes. In addition was a voluminous collection of letters written by Washington, Lafayette, Greene, Lincoln, Wayne, Steuben, Rufus King and officers of Rochambeau's army. The collection was bound and completely indexed by the Society. Being more of historical than genealogical value the collection was placed on loan with the Massachusetts Historical Society where it is preserved today.

Before passing from the administration of President Wilder it might be interesting to refer to the part the New England Historic Genealogical Society played in the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1857 William Emerson Baker, recently become a member of the Society, advanced an ambitious project for the erection of a building in the "Back Bay Reservation" to house historical, patriotic, scientific and kindred societies having their seat in Boston. He submitted to the Society, and later to the Boston Board of Trade, a plan for a "Conservatory of Art, Science and Historical Relics". Committees were formed and investigations carried on and the plan variously considered up to 1861. In January of 1861 it was decided to separate "Arts and Sciences" and "Historical Relics". Plans for the former classification were carried on and developed into the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with President Wilder of the Genealogical Society a member of the Board of Trust. To the original plan of Mr. Baker and the later energetic work of Mr. Wilder was generally given the credit for the creation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

It would be a strange and unusual record if any organization through a hundred years of existence should endure without controversy of some sort, our American freedom of individual thought and expression welcomes differences of opinion, and the inevitable seems to have come about in the selection of a successor to President Wilder in December 1886.

Rev. Edmund Farwell Slafter, D.D., an Episcopal clergyman, a

man of great force, energy and executive ability, thoroughly imbued with the historical spirit and devoted to the interests of the Society, having served it for twenty years as its corresponding secretary, was apparently the popular choice to follow in the office of the president.

However, at the annual meeting in 1887 the nominating committee brought in the name of Abner Cheney Goodell, Jr., a learned antiquarian, who had been for twenty years register of probate at Salem. No inkling of the candidate had been given out, but the nomination was accepted and Mr. Goodell elected. Ambitious efforts were made to develop the Society and much was expected of the new president.

In 1888 the legislature passed a bill authorizing the Society to hold real and personal estate not exceeding $200,000 in addition to the amount previously authorized. At the same time a new code of laws was adopted establishing a council of nine members and the six officers to manage the affairs of the Society in place of the board of directors and providing that the committees should be appointed by the Council rather than by the Society.

Soon dissatisfaction crept in and some felt that the new president was exercising undue control of the Society's affairs. The discontent manifested itself in December 1890 when a motion was unexpectedly offered at the very end of a meeting, when only a handful remained present, providing that the committee to nominate officers for the next year should be chosen by ballot and not appointed by the president. Mr. Goodell was reëlected at the following meeting but there were a few votes for an opposing candidate.

For over a year relations in the Society were much strained and reporters eager for sensation sought the usually otherwise quiet meetings. Finally, in May 1892, the president, the vice president for Massachusetts, the two secretaries, the librarian, the historiographer and six members of the council resigned. An effort was made to induce them to continue in office and a vote was passed cordially inviting them to withdraw their resignations; but they failed to do so and on the 22nd of June Ex-Governor William Claflin, a member of the Council who had not resigned, was elected president.

Whatever may have been the merits of either side to the controversy need not concern us fifty years after, but it would hardly be an unbiased and accurate narrative were we to record the progress and events of a century of growth ignoring completely all differences and controversies intensifying the earlier years of the Society.

The admission of women to membership in the Society was frequently discussed in the closing years of the first half century. Women naturally concerned in the records of family history, perhaps even more so than the men, were constantly taking more and more interest in the Society and making use of its facilities and advantages. But the half century was to roll around before the Society was quite ready to take this very important and far-reaching step.

Abner Cheney Goodell, M.A., the ninth president of the Society who served from January 1887 to June 1892, was born in Cambridgeport, Mass., Oct. 1, 1831 and died in Salem, Mass., July 19, 1914. He was a direct descendant of Robert Goodell who came from Ips-

wich, England, to Salem in 1634. Although he did not go to college he was an excellent scholar in Latin, mathematics and English literature. When 18 years of age he was taken into the law office of his uncle George Haskell of Ipswich and progressed in his law studies with Northend and Choate in Salem until he was admitted to the bar in 1852. He practiced law in Lynn. In 1856 he was elected register of the court of insolvency for Essex county and register of the court of probate in 1858, which latter office he held continuously for twenty years.

He served as alderman in Lynn, aided largely in securing a municipal water system for the city, became president of the Salem and South Danvers Street Railway Companies, which latter he took over when it was almost valueless and developed it into a very profitable transportation system.

An authority on recondite matters of law and points of ancient practice, Mr. Goodell was called upon in 1865 by Governor Andrew to prepare a complete copy of the statutes and laws of the Providence and State of Massachusetts Bay from the time of the province charter to the adoption of the constitution for the Commonwealth. He was engaged on this work for nineteen years, the fourth volume of his Province Laws being published in 1881.

Mr. Goodell became a member of the Society Aug. 6, 1862, was made a life member in 1863, a director in 1884 and succeeded Marshall P. Wilder, who died Dec. 16, 1886, as president. He was a life member and senior vice president of the Essex Institute, one of the foremost members of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts; corresponding member of historical societies in New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island; member of the Old Colony Historical Society of Taunton, the American Academy of Arts and Science, the Prince Society and Sons of the Revolution; trustee of the Peabody Academy of Science of Salem and long its secretary. He was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard and received the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Amherst College in 1865.

He married Nov. 26, 1866, Martha Page Putnam of Danvers, of one of the oldest New England families, by whom he had two sons.

Mr. Goodell was a polished gentleman of wit and charm, an able lawyer, scholar, noted for the fullness of his antiquarian knowledge and familiar with early New England history, a stalwart adherent of historical verities. He was particularly interested in the period of the Witchcraft Delusion and delved deeply into the tragedies of 1692. Too few of his many excellent addresses and papers were preserved.

Hon. William Claflin, LL.D., formerly governor of Massachusetts, succeeded Abner C. Goodell as president of the Society in June 1892, and contributed six years of quiet, conservative service during which many improvements were made in the Society's home, women became eligible for membership and the fiftieth anniversary of the Society was commemorated.

Mr. Claflin was born in Milford, Mass., March 6, 1818. He was a descendant of Robert Mackclaflin, of Scotch ancestry who came to

Wenham, Mass., in 1661, and whose descendants were distinguished through many generations. His father, Lee Claflin, was a state representative and senator, first president of several banks, in Milford, Hopkinton and Boston, was one of the founders of Boston University and became interested in an abandoned university in South Carolina which was renamed Claflin University.

William Claflin graduated from Brown University in 1833. He went into the boot and shoe business and built several large factories, being in the business for over 30 years, retiring in 1878. He was twice married and had seven children.

A practical reformer in many lines, temperance, slavery, women's suffrage and conditions of labor, he contributed largely of his time and means to these causes.

He served in both branches of the state legislature and was president of the senate in 1861. For some five years he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, went as a delegate to the National Republican Convention of 1869 and aided in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, attending also the conventions of 1864, 1868 and 1872, serving as national chairman in 1868 after ten years on the national committee.

Elected lieutenant governor in 1866 he served for three terms and in the autumn of 1868 was elected governor, being reëlected in 1869 and 1870.

In 1876 he went to Congress and was reëlected in 1878.

He was the second president of the Massachusetts Club, serving from 1875 to 1904, was given the degree of LL.D. by Wesleyan University in 1868 and by Harvard in 1869. He was a charter member and life trustee of Wellesley College, trustee for life and president of Boston University, a trustee of the school which became Mt. Holyoke College and aided in founding the New England Conservatory of Music. He attended the Bromfield Street Methodist Church and was president of the General Theological Library from 1883 to 1901. He made his home in later years in Newton where he passed away Jan. 5, 1905.

The funds of the Society during this second quarter century were competently and scrupulously cared for by William B. Towne, himself a generous benefactor of the Society, who served as treasurer from 1861 to 1871, and by Benjamin Barstow Torrey who became treasurer in 1871 and served until 1904.

The librarians during the second quarter century were William James Foley who served for the year 1870–71 and was succeeded by James Frothingham Hunnewell who served the following year. John Ward Dean, upon whom rested no little responsibility for the welfare of the Society in those early days, took over the librarian's duties in 1872 and served continuously for 16 years, only to come back to his old duties again in 1894 for another term of seven years. Ezra Hoyt Byington, D.D., officiated in the office in 1891–92 and Henry Winchester Cunningham in 1893.

The conduct of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register was in the hands of Editor Albert Harrison Hoyt from 1868 to October 1875 after which it was taken up by John

Ward Dean, who carried through until April 1901, the magazine maintaining throughout its high standard and gaining in prestige constantly.

Brief reference has been made earlier to the appointment of a standing committee on heraldry in February 1864, which included Messrs. Whitmore, Goodell, Bartlet, Perkins and Appleton. The Rev. Mr. Bartlet served for the first year only; the other four members constituted the committee, with the addition for one year (1870) of Edward Sprague Rand Jr., until 1873 when Thomas Coffin Amory replaced Mr. Whitmore as chairman. In 1874 George Bigelow Chase was added to the committee and in 1876 Mr. Appleton was replaced by Walter Lloyd Jeffries. This committee of five served until 1881 when John Coffin Jones Brown was added. It was not until 1888 that Mr. Goodell and Mr. Perkins, the last of the original committee, resigned, after serving 24 years each; and Mr. Perkins added two more years of service in 1889 and 1890.

It is not easy, after so many years, to determine the reasons and motives for the formation of this committee. The impulse seems to have been given, however, by a talk on "New England Heraldry" delivered by Mr. Goodell before the Essex Institute on Dec. 22, 1862. The address reflected rival impeachments on the part of the North and the South, due to the Civil War, as to the relative family standing of settlers of New England and Virginia, a provocation which had been heightened by a wholesale charge in the English Parliament. According to the latter, Virginians were "Cavaliers" and New Englanders of a "lower strata". The controversy assumed such proportions that our genealogists stepped in and brought out sufficient evidence of the preponderance of noble consanguinity of the people of New England as to silence further accusations. But once begun and the study of armigerous lines having been firmly established it was destined to be continued.

In their first report of June 1, 1864 the Society's committee on heraldry stated that they had fixed upon the date 1760 as the latest period when the use of arms in New England showed their probable authenticity; reviewed Bridgman's books on Boston gravestones; presented an illustrated list of the armorial stones in King's Chapel burying ground; and urged their readers to notify the committee of coats of arms used prior to 1860. Yet in March 1864 Joseph L. Chester had written to Mr. Whitmore from London, saying that "the use of arms is the weakest of all evidence. I find them now on the old tombstones where it is certain that the individual buried had not the slightest claim to them. The very tombstones themselves are questionable evidence" (REGISTER LX 94).

The second report of the committee, Jan. 4, 1865, announced the project of publishing a monthly magazine edited by the members of the committee but in no way connected with the Society. The first number of *the Heraldic Journal* is dated January 1865 and the committee of publication was composed of Messrs. Whitmore, Goodell, Perkins and Appleton, Mr. Whitmore being the editor of Volume I. It is not remarkable that in spite of the disavowal of connection with the Society the statements in the *Heraldic Journal*

have been interpreted as coming from the committee on heraldry. On page 3 it is stated that "The doubt we feel commences with the time when seal-engraving and painting of arms was practised in New England by resident artists,—a date which we *now* consider to have been about A.D. 1730–1735."

The *Heraldic Journal* was issued for four years (1865–1868) and contains a large amount of material of prime importance to the student of New England heraldry. The publishing committee also extended their interest beyond the field which seems to have been the original concern of the committee on heraldry, and included data relating to New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, New Jersey and Nova Scotia. The publishers warned their readers, in the first volume, against accepting the use of arms as evidence of authenticity, mentioning the fact that arms had been improperly assumed in England at least as early as in 1630; this very proper stand is partly offset by the fact that they themselves were misled by the faulty pedigrees of H. G. Somerby, who victimized a number of New England families who were prominent at that time.

Reports by the committee on heraldry were printed in 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869. In that of 1868 the committee re-affirmed its belief that the use of arms in this country before 1750 was proper and authorized, in spite of the warning in the *Heraldic Journal* of 1865 above mentioned. It will be seen, too, that the committee's "date of doubt" wavered a little: In 1864 it was 1760, in 1865 it was 1730–35, and in 1868, it was 1750. In 1868 Mr. Whitmore published in THE REGISTER (XXII 255), "Reasons for the Regulation of the Use of Coat-Armor in the United States, including a Plan for Taxing the Employment of such Insignia", which contains some interesting suggestions.

No reports by the committee on heraldry are found in THE REGISTER from 1870 to 1873 inclusive; in that for 1874 it is stated that the large amount of material in the *Heraldic Journal* has lessened the number of inquiries addressed to the committee. In this report the significant recommendation is made that new arms be adopted by those who cannot establish a claim to old arms. The suggestion is also made that families send in for record such arms as they use and consider their own, with pedigrees. The committee at this time consisted of Thomas Coffin Amory, who joined it as chairman in 1873, replacing Mr. Whitmore; Messrs. Perkins, Goodell and Appleton of the original committee; and George Bigelow Chase who had joined that year.

There followed a long period of apparent inactivity. From 1875 to 1899 inclusive no reports are printed in THE REGISTER, and there is mention of but nine, which must have had but little interest. Mr. Goodell's name disappears after 1887, after four years of service as chairman; Mr. Perkins resigned with him; and Mr. Appleton's name was replaced after 1876 by that of Walter Lloyd Jeffries who served for six years.

In 1891 Mr. Appleton, who had been a member of the committee for thirteen consecutive years (1864–1876 incl.) and served again for

one year in 1890, printed in THE REGISTER (XLV 187) a list of twenty-nine names of armigerous immigrants, and in 1898 (REGISTER LII 185) he added three more, thus limiting their number to thirty-two.

Ever since the first appearance of THE REGISTER in 1847 English Research had formed an important part of the publication. In volume II (1848) there appeared a copy of the Battle Abbey Roll and from that time for some twenty-five years to 1883 there was no regularly established department for the work, but valuable articles appeared from time to time relating to the English background of our early New England settlers.

Several of these, as the shipping lists, etc., from the pens of Samuel G. Drake, William H. Whitmore and John W. Thornton, were of a general nature and provided valuable source material as to the origin of a large number of the early emigrants. It should be noted that the copies of the shipping lists appearing in THE REGISTER during this period are far more accurate than the later transcriptions printed in 1874 by Mr. Hotten. The names of the Scottish prisoners shipped in the *Sarah and John* was another valuable list relating to a picturesque and important incident in New England history, namely, the sending of the Scotch prisoners taken at Dunbar and Worcester to New England.

The greater part of the articles, however, which appeared at this time related to the ancestry of particular settlers from the pens of such pioneer searchers in the English archives as Horatio G. Somerby and Col. Joseph L. Chester. The articles by Colonel Chester are usually valuable and important, such as the pedigrees of Hutchinson of Lincoln, Marbury, Wentworth, etc. Those of Mr. Somerby need to be checked and revised before they can be unqualifiedly accepted.

In 1883, thanks to the generosity of some public spirited members of the Society, the services of that great antiquary, the late Henry FitzGilbert Waters of Salem, were secured; he was sent to England to search the English records for traces of our early immigrants and his "Genealogical Gleanings" in England became a regular feature in each number of THE REGISTER. Mr. Waters inaugurated a new system of research with great success. Instead of working out the ancestry of particular immigrants he searched the vast collection of wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at Somerset House for clues regarding our early settlers, leaving the following up of these clues to others. Mr. Waters continued this great work from 1883 to 1900, when he returned to America to continue his able researches in Salem. During this period Mr. Waters practically exhausted the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for clues and, in addition, compiled several most important pedigrees, the result of his successful sleuthing in the records. Outstanding are his pedigrees of Washington, Harvard and Roger Williams, whereby he settled conclusively these important lines and it may here be noted that some later researchers have not been above appropriating as their own some of his sensational discoveries and of trying to claim credit for his splendid work.

From 1901–1909 Mr. J. Henry Lee and Mr. Lothrop Withington supplied "Gleanings from the English Archives" based upon Mr. Waters' system of research as well as several pedigrees of early settlers such as that of the Bancroft family. This work served as a stop gap until, in 1909, the Committee on English Research secured the services of Miss Elizabeth French (now Mrs. J. Gardner Bartlett) who went to England to engage in genealogical research for THE REGISTER and for private clients. She was fortunate in having the assistance of the distinguished Anglo-American genealogist, the late J. Gardner Bartlett. Although Mr. Waters had practically exhausted the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for clues he had, however, done but little in the great mass of records preserved in the Public Record Office and in the local probate and parish records of England. Working largely in these fields Miss French returned to the system of presenting the pedigrees, so far as they could be worked out, of the early founders and so made many searches in the records of the century preceding the founding of New England, the sixteenth. Working from 1909 to 1918 she contributed some very valuable genealogies, such as that of the Ray family of Rhode Island, the Josalin family and of the numerous Kentish families, which settled in Scituate, as well as those of settlers from other parts of England.

In 1918 the work was largely taken over by the present chairman of the committee, Mr. George Andrews Moriarty, who, for a number of years, carried it on at his own expense and between 1920 and 1928 made a number of trips to England for personal research in the Public Record Office and elsewhere. During this phase of English research the field has been widened to include searches into the mediaeval records for the pedigrees of settlers, which can be traced beyond the 16th century and in recent years, since the present war, records and articles have been presented, which, while relating to the ancestry of early New Englanders, are more properly primarily of English and foreign interest and which, owing to the effect of the war in Europe, cannot be printed on the other side of the Atlantic. These are offered as a contribution during the crisis to International Genealogy. Of recent years outstanding articles, such as that on the Carletons, have been contributed by the late Prof. Tracy E. Hazen and on the Stricklands by S. Horace Lee Washington, as well as other able contributors.

It is hoped to continue the department of English and Foreign Research after the war in its wider aspects, so as to include not merely articles on the immediate 16th century ancestry of our founders, but also their more remote ancestry, where it is capable of sound proof.

Owing to the munificent generosity of that devout student of English research, the late William Streeter Richardson, who bequeathed $5,000, the interest of which was to be used exclusively for English research, the committee has an annual nest egg for making researches abroad. More is, however, urgently needed.

The growth and continuing prestige of the New England Historic Genealogical Society was clearly demonstrated in this second quarter

century by the addition of many notable names to the membership among which were the following:

Pres. Chester A. Arthur (U.S.A.)
Horatio Alger, Jr.
Charles Francis Adams
Oliver Ames
Alexander Graham Bell
James Bryce (London)
George William Curtis
Charles Carleton Coffin
Gov. John Davis (Mass.)
Gen. John A. Dix
Oliver Ditson
Marquis J. H. E. d'Oyley (Paris)
Curtis Guild
William E. Gladstone (London)
Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes (U.S.A.)
Samuel Hoar
Henry Cabot Lodge
Samuel C. Lawrence
Gov. John D. Long (Mass.)
Joel Munsell
Leopold Morse
George Peabody (London)
Robert Gould Shaw
Levi Woodbury
Gov. Roger Wolcott (Mass.)

THE THIRD QUARTER CENTURY

As the New England Historic Genealogical Society entered upon its second half century, it faced the future with considerable trepidation. The early nineties had been critical years. There had been serious losses through unfortunate investments, there were internal differences which had disturbed the official family and the membership was at a low ebb; in fact, publication of the notable "English Gleanings" of Henry F. Waters in THE REGISTER constituted about the only redeeming feature of the period.

The building at 18 Somerset Street, which 25 years before had been the pride and inspiration of the Society, had now, almost a hundred years old, become "an old ramshackle building". At best it had been somewhat of a firetrap, a most unsuitable place for the preservation of valuable and irreplaceable historical documents; accumulations had completely filled all storage space and there was little room for library purposes or accommodation of visitors.

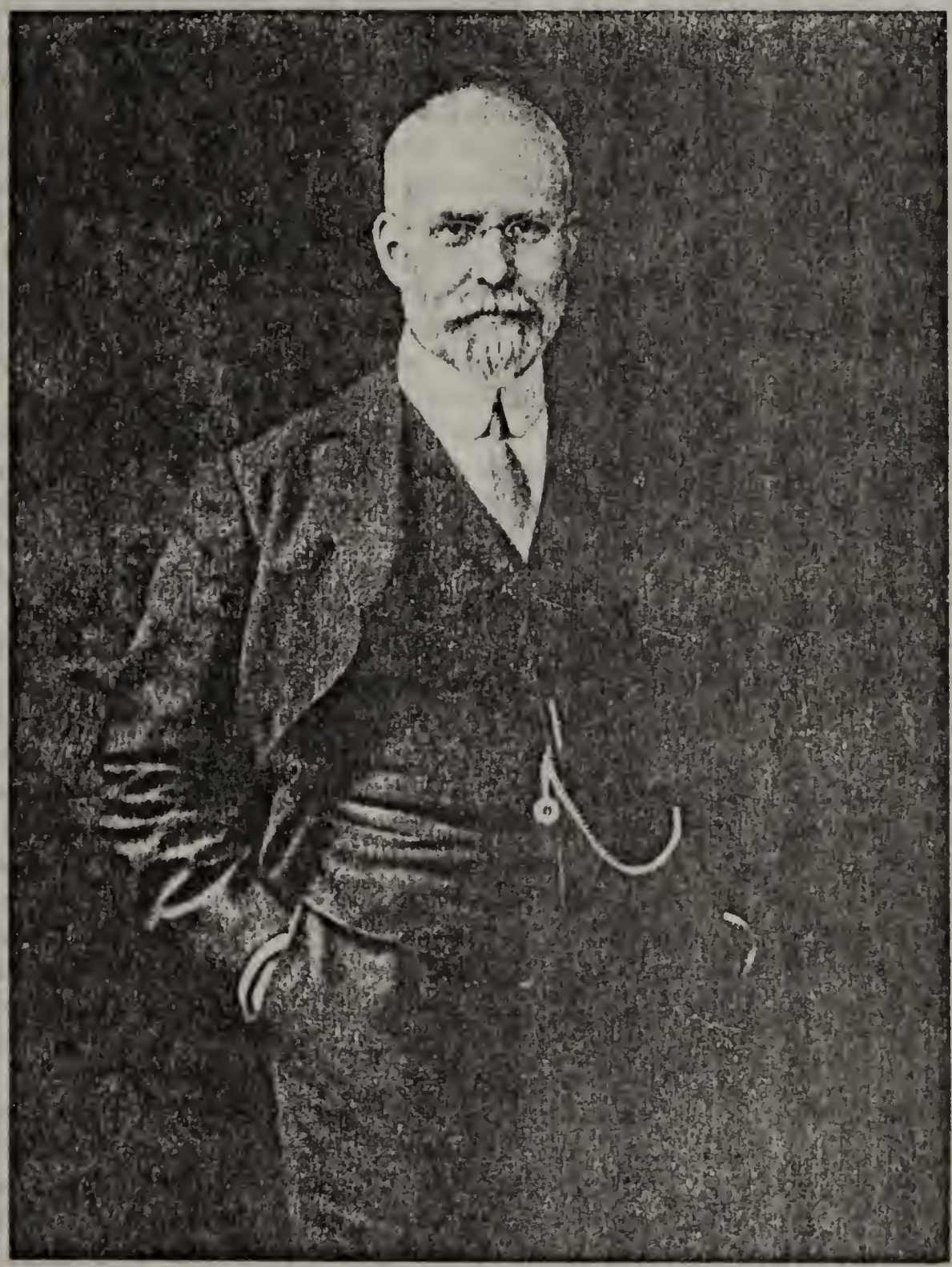
In fact, as an earlier member stated, the general condition of the Society had become so deplorable that some members felt the best course would be "to expire as a separate institution and merge the library with a special reference department of the Boston Public Library", or, as others suggested, continue as merely a publishing society.

But there still remained in the Society and in its staunchest supporters that "faith of the fathers" which had instituted the Society and had loyally maintained it through half a century, and faith and confidence in the future prevailed.

It was obvious that certain things were necessary if the Society was to continue and grow. First, it was essential to create a more general public interest in genealogy; secondly, there was need of a new, younger and more business-like administration; and, thirdly, someone with zeal and energy was needed to reorganize the library and put it on a more efficient basis.

It is a memorable tribute to those loyal members of half a century ago that within a short time all those obstacles were overcome and the horizon began to brighten. The formation of various patriotic societies like the Sons of the Revolution, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Society of Mayflower Descendants aided tremendously in arousing public interest in the membership of the Society.

Finally, as a former chronicler of the Society said: "Heaven provided the third essential in the person of a young, energetic and capable person to take charge of the library, William Prescott Greenlaw"; one who was destined to become the bone and sinew and guiding hand through more than half a century and is still, today, hale and hearty and devoted to the Society's best interests.



William Prescott Greenlaw

Mr. Greenlaw entered upon the duties of his new position as assistant librarian on Sept. 1, 1894. John Ward Dean had for some years served both as librarian and as editor of THE REGISTER. He was approaching his 80th year and obviously the double responsibility was burdensome. It was arranged that he should retain the title of librarian, but after the advent of Mr. Greenlaw, Mr. Dean devoted his remaining years to THE REGISTER.

The new assistant librarian found things in a chaotic state, but he soon demonstrated his worthiness. The accumulations of the library were overhauled and examined and useless papers and pamphlets discarded. More valuable manuscripts were bound and made easily accessible; essential books were acquired; the library was systematically arranged on open shelves, and exchange and coöperative relations were arranged with kindred libraries and societies. Electric lights were installed which led to greater and more satisfactory use of the reading room; in 1897 typewriters were "permitted", and the telephone became a necessary adjunct in 1901, but it took several years for the new assistant to overcome the prevailing objection to these "contraptions".

At the beginning of the second half century the Society had a resident membership of about 400. Its real estate and investments were worth $113,000 and there was a library of some 30,000 bound volumes, estimated to be worth $100,000. About 500 pages of records were published annually and the visitors to the library numbered around 650 each year.

In 1899 the Committee on Heraldry consisted of Henry Ernest Woods, chairman, who had served on the committee in this capacity since 1891; Francis Apthorp Foster, who had been a member since 1895; and James Henry Lee, a member since 1897. The report for 1899 says in part of the work of this committee: "As there is no person and no institution in the United States with authority to regulate the use of coats of arms, your committee discouraged their display in any way or form. . . . The mere fact that an individual possessed a painting of a coat of arms, used it upon plate or as a bookplate or seal, or had it put upon his gravestone, is not proof that he had a right to it. Proof of right must either be found in the Herald's records, or be established by authentic pedigree from an armiger".

Such a standard was so high that one would suppose the committee would have disbanded for lack of material. In 1902 it reported "with regret the recent great increase in fictitious and fraudulent heraldry, and the frequent imposition by unscrupulous purveyors upon ignorant but ambitious persons who are, in many cases, deceived into the belief that they are actually entitled to the arms ascribed to them"; and year by year the small committee of three (Boylston Adams Beal having replaced James Henry Lee in 1905) reported a lessening public interest in heraldry, as was but natural.

William Sumner Appleton, Jr., replaced Francis Apthorp Foster in 1910 and in 1911 Robert Dickson Weston joined the committee as its chairman, replacing Henry Ernest Woods who had served for

twenty-one years, nineteen of them as chairman. A change of point of view is apparent in the report of 1911: "While the committee is not altogether satisfied with the attitude of the Society towards the use of armorial bearings by people in the United States, and is painfully considering various propositions which it may wish to bring forward later, it is not ready at the present time to formulate or suggest to the Society any definite plan of action".

Two new members were added to the committee in 1914, Charles Knowles Bolton and William Streeter Richardson, bringing its membership again to five, it having been but three since 1890. New brooms sweep clean; not one of the 1899 members were still on the committee, and the new committee published in THE REGISTER (vol. 69, p. 285) a special report which had been accepted by the Council of the Society May 6, 1914. The new stand was radically different from the old; the committee recommended that instead of applying the rigid standards of the Herald's College of that time, and instead of making futile efforts to suppress the use of arms which could not meet those standards, the Society should countenance the use of arms which met the standards current at the period of colonization. A short notice is followed (p. xvi) by the annual report of the committee for 1915 and this by the long special report (p. xvi). It says, among other things: "Coats of arms being, as we have pointed out, a kind of private property, we should accept the sort of evidence and the same amount of proof which in courts of law determine a man's title to other kinds of property, that is, evidence and proof which would satisfy the mind of an ordinary, intelligent person. We should not insist on proof which is conclusive beyond any reasonable doubt, such as is required to convict a man of murder." The committee recommended keeping a record of such arms as could be accepted within the limitations which they set forth, and issued a small folder of "Instructions to those who may apply to have Arms accepted for Record." This is worth quoting as showing the stand of the committee then and now:

"1st. The Committee has nothing to do with the possible descent of the applicant from the original immigrant or grantee whose arms he asked to have accepted, nor is it necessary that the applicant should be so descended.

"2nd. For the purposes of the Committee, the word "proof" means:

(a) The filing with or exhibition to the Committee of the original document or thing relied upon.

(b) Reference to published books the authority of which is recognized by the Committee. (Burke is not accepted as an authority.)

(c) Copies of photographs of documents, seals, tombstones or other objects relied on, together with affidavits or certificates made by Justices of the Peace or Notaries, or by other responsible persons. In every case the evidence must be such as to satisfy the minds of the Committee.

"3rd. Proof of the descent of the immigrant from a family rightfully bearing the arms is the best.

"4th. Proof that the immigrant brought arms with him from the old country, either painted, embroidered, engraved or upon a seal, would probably be sufficient.

"5th. Proof that the immigrant used the arms might in some circumstances be sufficient."

Two years later the committee was able to report the acceptance of eight coats of arms for the record book, but the report for 1918 shows that the war had seriously lessened the number of expected applications.

In 1917 the Society authorized the committee to use as a seal a design which was devised by the committee members; a herald's tabard showing the cross of St. George and in the quarters, 1st & 4th a pine tree (for New England) and 2nd & 3rd a dove from the coat of the College of Arms.

Through the first half century the membership of the New England Historic Genealogical Society had been limited to men. About 1894 some more audacious ones brought up the subject of opening the membership to women. The reaction was haughty and dignified, if not decidedly frosty. But from time to time a venturesome one would include a woman's name among the candidates to be voted for. The name was invariably passed in silence. It was obviously the opinion that "no action was necessary". But, as time went on, more and more names of the fair sex appeared among the lists of applicants until, early in 1897, there were some fifteen very estimable women awaiting action on their applications. The pressure was becoming strong and obviously something had to be done.

The recalcitrant antiquarians advanced a most ingenious argument. Membership in the Society was limited to "persons who, etc." and of course women were not "persons". At a meeting on Feb. 3, 1897 Rev. Dr. Henry Allen Hazen offered a resolution declaring that women were naturally interested in the records of family history—more so, probably, than men—and he moved that the Council consider applications from women and to pass judgment upon them on the same conditions as they applied to male applicants. At the next meeting the secretary was instructed to send out notices of the resolution with a request that resident and life members express their opinion on a return postal card.

Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, earnest champion of women's rights, who did not often attend the meetings, came in person to respond to the notice and to advocate personally passage of the resolution. The postal card ballot stood 451 in favor of the resolution and 50 opposed, with 13 qualified answers, and the resolution was adopted.

To make certain that women could legally become members a committee was appointed to go to the legislature and secure an act by the General Court authorizing the admission of women. Such an act was approved April 10, 1897 and became a part of the Acts and Resolves of 1897, chapter 275.

Almost another year was to roll around, however, before the Society could reconcile itself to the innovation, but at a meeting held on February 2, 1898 thirty-six women were voted into membership in the Society, and thus began a new and potent influence which through the years was to reflect added distinction and prestige to the Society.

The name of Mrs. Georgetta Barton Witter of Worcester, Mass., headed the list of women nominations acted upon but the honor of the first to qualify for legal membership fell to Mrs. Lucy Hall Greenlaw of Cambridge.

The following are the women who were first to be admitted to the Society on February 2, 1898, in the order in which their names appeared on the nomination papers:

Mrs. Georgetta Barton Witter, Worcester, Mass.
Mrs. Sarah Louise Lee, Brookline, Mass.
Miss Emily Wilder Leavitt, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Lucy Hall Greenlaw, Cambridge, Mass.
Mrs. Fannie Wilder Brown, Fitchburg, Mass.
Mrs. Lora Altine Underhill, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Mrs. Evelyn McCurdy Salisbury, New Haven, Conn.
Miss Mary Perkins Quincy, New Haven, Conn.
Mrs. Julia Elizabeth Folsom, Brookline, Mass.
Miss Sarah E. Cushman, Newtonville, Mass.
Mrs. William Lawrie, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Ida Louise Miller, Wakefield, Mass.
Mrs. Lydia Matthews Fisher, Hyde Park, Mass.
Mrs. Katherine L. Edwards, Southbridge, Mass.
Miss Helen F. Kimball, Longwood, Mass.
Miss Mary H. Graves, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Ethie M. Howe, Newtonville, Mass.
Miss Hannah P. Kimball, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. E. C. Milliken, Boston, Mass.
Miss Mary Elvira Elliot, Somerville, Mass.
Mrs. Sarah A. Kimball, Methuen, Mass.
Mrs. Adelaide Elizabeth Cordis, Medford, Mass.
Mrs. Harriet E. Robinson, Malden, Mass.
Mrs. Emeline Bridge Simonds, Charlestown, Mass.
Mrs. Ellen Lord Burditt, Dorchester, Mass.
Mrs. Emma Story White, Boston, Mass.
Miss Sarah E. Chase, South Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Anna Jane Manning, Brookline, Mass.
Mrs. Harriette Estelle Hayes, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Thomas B. Griggs, Brookline, Mass.
Miss Ellen M. Tufts, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Harriet Hodges Stone, Newton, Mass.
Miss Elizabeth J. Wilmarth, Attleboro, Mass.
Miss May C. Sawyer, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Anna Margaret Riley, Claremont, N. H.
Mrs. Frances Jane Wallace, Albany, N. Y.

Rev. Edward Griffin Porter, the eleventh president of the Society, took office in January 1899, having been a member of the Society from 1870. He was reëlected in 1900 but did not live to complete his term of office, passing away on February 5 of that year. Mr. Porter was of an old and distinguished New England family which began with John Porter who settled in Windsor, Conn., in 1837. His father, Royal Loomis, was born in Williamstown, Mass., graduated from Williams College in 1823, and after his marriage came to Bos-

ton where Edward Griffin Porter was born Jan. 24, 1837. In Boston Royal Loomis Porter entered the newspaper field, founded *The American Traveller* in 1825 which became the *Boston Evening Traveller* in 1845, a year after its founder's death. Mrs. Porter, having lost her husband when young Edward Griffin was seven years old, married Nathan Carruth, a Boston merchant, who lived in Ashmont, Boston, and here young Edward was to make his home.

Edward attended Phillips Andover Academy in 1851, went to Williams College in 1854 and in his sophomore year transferred to Harvard, where he graduated in 1858. Immediately after leaving Harvard Edward went to Europe and spent the next three years studying in Berlin, Heidelberg and Athens, and in the latter city devoted himself to the mastery of the modern Greek language. Vacations were spent in travel about Europe and he returned to receive the degree of M.A. from Harvard in 1861.

Mr. Porter entered Andover Theological Seminary in 1861, graduated in 1864 and was licensed to preach. During the Civil War he was active in caring for the sick and wounded soldiers in field hospitals and camps, his physical condition making it impossible for him to enlist for active service. In fact his work among the injured brought on a fever which seriously undermined his health and on medical advice he again went to Europe, in 1866, where he remained for two years, living in England, Switzerland and Italy. In the latter country he became intensely interested in the work of Protestant churches and schools in the northern part of the country. As a result he was for more than 20 years connected with the board of officers of the Gould Memorial Home and Industrial School whose field of labor was in Rome.

Returning to America, Mr. Porter was called to the pastorate of the Congregational church in Lexington, Mass., in October 1868 and he kept that charge, his first and only pastorate, for 23 years, when he voluntarily retired in 1891, to become pastor emeritus.

From 1868 on Rev. Dr. Porter was an outstanding citizen of historic old Lexington. He quickly made himself familiar with his new home—its physical aspects, its hills and dales, its streams, flowers, shrubs and forest trees, and he became the authority and exponent of all its notable historic associations. He was chairman of the school board for six years. Upon celebration of the centennial of the Battle of Lexington Green he became the most active of all those interested. He designed a medal, one face of which became the town seal, and he secured invaluable documents from England relating to the Revolution which became town property. Toward the close of his pastorate he made a tour around the world in which he assumed the self-imposed task of visiting Christian missions of the countries visited.

In his final years he spent considerable time in his mother's home in Ashmont devoting his time to historical study, being in frequent and constant demand as a speaker before distinguished gatherings of ministerial brethren, churches, and of historical and patriotic societies, to which he gave freely of his time and great knowledge. His published works covered a wide field and many subjects of

which some fifty have been recorded in early volumes of THE REGISTER. It is significant that he was president of the trustees of the American College of Central Turkey; vice president of the Prince Society; secretary of the Winthrop Club; on the board of the Gould Memorial Home and Industrial School, Rome; corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; member of the American Historical Society, American Antiquarian Society, Massachusetts Historical Society, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Bostonian Society, Lexington Historical Society, and Nantucket Historical Society; overseer of Harvard; and trustee of Lawrence Academy, Abbott Academy and Bradford Academy.

During his short time in the presidency of the Society he showed a lively interest in its affairs, visiting the rooms in Somerset Street nearly every day. With quietness and tact and due consideration for the methods and traditions of a society long established, "he showed a purpose to lead the body of which he was the official head into broader fields of usefulness and activity and to make the region it nominally represented, New England, actually interested and coöperative in its affairs to an extent not heretofore realized."

James Phinney Baxter became the twelfth president of the Society when Edward Griffin Porter came to his untimely death after serving but one year in office. Mr. Baxter had joined the Society in 1862, was made vice president for Maine in 1897, and was elected president Jan. 9, 1901. In later years, in 1905, he became a life member and a Pilgrim Tercentenary member in 1919.

The administration of President Baxter was beyond all doubt the most notable in the history of the Society. He served for more years than any other president before or after, over twenty years, he was absolutely devoted to the affairs of the organization and during his administration the New England Historic Genealogical Society made its greatest progress and reached a high pinnacle.

Mr. Baxter was born in Gorham, Maine, March 23, 1831. He came from sturdy ancestors who first settled in and about Lebanon, Conn., early in the eighteenth century, migrated to New Hampshire, then Vermont, and finally came to Gorham, Maine. His father, Dr. Elihu Baxter, was an old time practitioner who served well the residents of Gorham and nearby Portland.

James Phinney Baxter never went to college but he acquired more learning than most college men through his love of study by devoting a great part of his time throughout his long life of 90 years to deep study. He attended the Gorham schools and Gorham Academy, Master Jackson's famous school in Portland, then two years in a Lynn, Mass., Academy. Afterward he attended Portland Academy and was also under private classical tutors. He took up the study of foreign languages under native teachers. He loved to study, was a great reader all his life, and in later years, when he was deeply concerned in business and public affairs, made it a rule to devote only mornings to work, leaving his afternoons free for study and recreation.

Having early decided to enter the legal profession Mr. Baxter went to Boston and studied in the office of Rufus Choate. How-

ever, having already displayed that acumen for business which for so many years afterward was destined to distinguish his career, he yielded to his strong inclination toward trade, abandoned legal studies and entered the dry goods business in Portland.

He was eminently successful in business. In addition to his wholesale and retail dry goods business Mr. Baxter and his associates became interested in the manufacture, on a large scale, of canned goods, then something of a new venture. The Civil War came along and there was a tremendous demand for his goods and Mr. Baxter and his partners became eminently wealthy. In later years his sons carried on the canning industry and still continue in it, making Maine one of the great canning states of the country.

Mr. Baxter became the owner of considerable real estate in Portland, he served as president of the Portland Savings Bank and was indirectly connected with many financial undertakings in Portland. He built and gave to the city the Portland Public Library, and was its trustee and president; he was founder and first president of the Portland Society of Art; president of the Portland Benevolent Society, founder and president of the Maine Society, Sons of the Revolution; founder and president of Associated Charities, and donated money for the Walker Manual Training School.

Much against his wishes, he was persuaded to become mayor of the city of Portland in 1893, and he served the city for six terms, 1893–1897 and 1904–1905, being elected as a Republican although the city was strongly Democratic. His administration was a notable one in every respect. He conceived broad projects, benefiting the city as a whole, became a deep student of municipal management, and having no ambition for higher political honors was able to achieve constructive measures of great permanent value.

Mr. Baxter was deeply interested in historical and genealogical lore. He spent two years in London studying and transcribing the records as to the early proprietors of Maine, when it was a part of Massachusetts. He made an exhaustive study of the history of Portland. He edited more than 20 volumes of the "Documentary History of Maine". His most notable work was the "Trelawny Papers" published in the Collections of the Maine Historical Society. His collections of transcripts filled nearly 40 volumes, containing about 20,000 pages of manuscript. He spared neither time nor money in this form of research.

He was made a member of the American Antiquarian Society, was its secretary for foreign correspondence; was corresponding member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Rhode Island Historical Society and Old Colony Historical Society and was a member of the Fraternity, Saturday Evening and Portland clubs. He was an overseer of Bowdoin College which conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts in 1881 and Doctor of Letters in 1904. He was also a member of the Masonic order.

Mr. Baxter was an excellent speaker and presiding officer. His great store of knowledge, his extensive travel at home and abroad, his wide acquaintance with distinguished men, his simplicity and

modesty, sympathy and capacity for understanding, combined with his erect and commanding figure, he was well above the average in height, brought constant demands upon him to address meetings of an historical or commemorative nature, and invariably his papers were of a scholarly character.

He was intensely devoted to the New England Historic Genealogical Society and throughout his 20 years as its president he seldom if ever missed a regular meeting, coming from Portland to Boston especially to preside over its deliberations.

He was married first to Sarah Kimball Lewis of Portland by whom he had eight children, and secondly to Mehetable Cummings Proctor, by whom he had three children. One of the latter, Percival Proctor Baxter, became governor of the State of Maine, and succeeded his father as Pilgrim Tercentenary member of this Society.

Mr. Baxter died May 8, 1921, aged 90 years. In his will he made provision for carrying out a project which for many years had been dear to his heart, a "Temple of Honor" or Westminster Abbey, in which memorials of the Pilgrim and Puritan founders of this country might be preserved. To bring about this New England Pantheon he left a bequest of $50,000 to the city of Boston to be held in trust until the amount should reach $1,000,000, when it should be used for such a memorial, or, if Boston refused the bequest, the money should go to the city of Portland for a charitable institution or parks.

One of the greatest services which the Society has been able to render in its century long life has been the copying, compiling and publishing of the vital records of the cities and towns of the Commonwealth from earliest time down to 1850.

Births, deaths and marriages of the first-comers and their descendants had been recorded, if at all, in many and various forms, officially and semi-officially, and even less care had been shown in the preservation of such records. Messrs. Edmund D. Barbour, Henry E. Woods and the assistant librarian, William P. Greenlaw, realizing the value and importance of these early records and knowing they were disappearing from time to time through fire, deterioration and wanton destruction, decided to do something about it. Accordingly a bill was prepared for the legislature and after a great deal of campaigning the General Court passed an act appropriating annual funds for the purchase of books of vital statistics of the cities and towns of the state. The New England Historic Genealogical Society took upon itself the task of collecting, compiling and publishing such records and the work continued uninterrupted for sixteen years, until, as a measure of economy, during World War One, the act was repealed. The vital records of 149 of the 351 cities and towns of the state, comprising over 51,000 pages, had been published, records of 65 of the towns, in 70 volumes, having been the work of the Society. The work was continued by further act of the legislature after World War One and at the end of the Society's first hundred years the vital records had been completed for 206 cities and towns; 75 directly by this Society, leaving 100 cities and towns established before 1850 to be covered.

ASHBURTON PLACE ENTRANCE

Since there still remain many historic municipalities whose records have not been similarly studied, and published, it is to be hoped the Commonwealth will see fit to make further appropriation for completion of the work.

Early in 1909 the Committee of Papers and Essays decided upon a radical departure in the conduct and scope of the monthly meetings of the Society, previously rather dull and unsocial gatherings of a limited few who met to listen to the recitation of historical or memorial papers. Under the new plan addresses of a popular nature were sandwiched in with the more didactic ones and a social hour after the meeting, with light refreshments, inaugurated. Immediately there was increased attendance and a tendency to foregather for a social hour of acquaintance and social intercourse. So successful was the plan that very soon need was felt of a larger assembly room and in October 1909 Pilgrim Hall, on nearby Beacon Street, was secured. While fears were expressed that the members would be lost in the larger hall, it was soon found that even Pilgrim Hall was none too large and here most interesting and successful gatherings were held for the next four years.

John Ward Dean who had been the mainstay of the Society's publication, THE REGISTER, since 1876, passed away in 1901 and the mantle of editor fell upon the shoulders of Henry Ernest Woods, who filled that position for five years. He was succeeded in 1908 by Francis Apthorp Foster, who served until 1912. In 1912 Henry Edwards Scott, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1881, and a distinguished historian and genealogist, was appointed associate editor and the following year became editor of THE REGISTER, a position he was destined to fill with distinction and honor for twenty-five years.

An addition had been made to the Society's building at 18 Somerset Street in 1894–5 but even with this the building was soon seen to be inadequate and in the next few years there was much discussion over the matter of securing new and larger quarters for the library. Not alone was more space the only requisite but careful examination of the old building at 18 Somerset Street by competent architects showed the structure was an extremely hazardous fire risk and the Society was in great danger of losing its entire collection of valuable books and papers.

By a sudden, unannounced and adroit act, in one day, the Society acquired legal possession by purchase of several parcels of land and old time tenement buildings in the rear of the Somerset Street building, and the tenement at 9 Ashburton Place. At the same time the Society received a very favorable offer for its Somerset Street headquarters and the adjacent building which it had sometime before acquired.

The purchases of land with the 9 Ashburton Place site presented the opportunity of erecting a new building for the Society with a frontage on either Somerset Street or Ashburton Place. The latter was held to be the more desirable.

A special building committee, with full authority to erect a new home for the Society and finance the project was appointed in 1911, and the committee raised in that and the succeeding year some $80,-

000. On the committee were President James Phinney Baxter, chairman; William Prescott Greenlaw, John Albree, Charles K. Bolton, Thomas Minns, F. Apthorp Foster, Henry W. Cunningham, Henry E. Woods and Nathaniel J. Rust.

William Prescott Greenlaw, who had been made librarian of the Society on April 2, 1902, upon the death of John Ward Dean, had been a consistent advocate of a new building from his first connection with the Society. When the possibility of a new home appeared imminent Mr. Greenlaw personally visited most of the leading historical and genealogical libraries in the east and from his study and observations, and natural talents, prepared plans of a scheme for a model library suited to the needs of the Society.

Architects called in to prepare plans for the proposed new building thus found a fundamental part of their work already accomplished. They paid high tribute to the drawings prepared by Mr. Greenlaw. As Brainerd and Leeds, the architects, said: "These (plans) showed, carefully thought out, the general size of the building, its position on the lot, the number and height of stories and the general assignment of spaces for the different purposes for everything above the basement. . . . The general scheme we have not changed or substantially modified. What modifications we made have benefitted greatly by his advice and experience in the uses of the building."

The new home of the Society was first occupied on December 21, 1912, Forefathers' Day, although the building was not completed and dedicated until March 18, 1913. In 67 years the Society had grown from a single cramped room with an armful of books to a modern, fireproof building of its own, housing a library of over 50,000 volumes, and with adequate space for many years to come.

The building at 9 Ashburton Place, of reinforced concrete and steel, built on sloping ground, has many convenient features due to its location. The main entrance on Ashburton Place leads one directly to the middle of the building, so that one ascends but two flights of stairs to the library, or descends two flights to the auditorium, while a rear entrance on Allston Street leads directly into the auditorium. The library, on the upper floor, occupies the space of two stories, with three tiers of stacks. Besides the general reading room there is a private section for members and a handsomely adorned conversation room. On a mezzanine floor is another room, now occupied by the historial general of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Below the library is a mezzanine story given over to the offices of the Society, the office of the librarian, and quarters for the editorial staff of THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER. Opening off this floor is the entrance to a great vault 40 feet deep, 17 feet wide and 21 feet in height, holding three tiers of racks for the safekeeping of the records and priceless documental acquisitions of the Society, embracing more than a mile of shelf room.

On the street floor is a suite of three rooms; a room for the Committee on Heraldry and a veritable "House of Lords" chamber for meetings of the Council of the Society. There is also access from this floor to a two story room formerly designed for book stacks to

double the capacity of the main vault, but later converted into a museum.

A mezzanine floor next below the street provides facilities for mailing and shipping purposes, and storage room and also leads to the gallery of the auditorium.

On the ground floor, with entrance from both the front and rear, is the auditorium seating 325, besides which is a tea room and kitchen facilities and cloak room.

Two basement floors provide room for the boiler and engine, janitor quarters and storage room.

Throughout the occupancy of the new building the Society has from time to time facilitated and accelerated the activities of various historical and patriotic societies by setting aside unused rooms for their headquarters. Thus the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities for a time in its earliest days occupied rooms at 9 Ashburton Place; the Society of the Cincinnati, Prince Society, Boston Numismatic Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Society of Colonial Dames, Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Bunker Hill Monument Association have from time to time benefited from the courtesy, encouraging coöperation and goodwill of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Throughout the period covered by the erection and occupation of the new building, the librarian of the Society, William Prescott Greenlaw, has been a dominant and powerful factor in the physical and financial growth of the Society. Upon him fell the responsibility of establishing the Society in its new quarters and providing the greatest efficiency of its resources, a position for which he was well and happily qualified and in which he was to carry on with distinct credit for many years.

COMPLETING A CENTURY

Ensconced in its splendid and commodious new building, the New England Historic Genealogical Society began the final quarter of its first century of existence full of zest and hope for the future. The World War had ended, and it was the three hundredth anniversary year of the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth. Returning veterans had reunited families and over all the land family pride was exuberant. From coast to coast, too, there was mounting interest among those who had long cherished their descent from Pilgrim and Puritan fathers.

The time and conditions were propitious for carrying out plans which had been under consideration by the officers of the Society. The new building, with its increased overhead expenses, added personnel, and mounting patronage called for more income than was available to the Society from its limited endowments and membership fees. Obviously it was the time to seek energetically for an increase in funds and membership.

The building at 9 Ashburton Place was a most appropriate and fitting place for family memorials. It provided an opportunity to honor and perpetuate cherished names of ancestors by means of tablets, memorial rooms and library equipment.

The Pilgrim Tercentenary Memorial Fund was therefore created, actually in 1919, for the purpose of strengthening the Society financially. This was to be accomplished by a new kind of membership, in perpetuity, and family memorials. The appeal went out nationwide under the sponsorship of a group of most distinguished and influential citizens, J. Pierpont Morgan, Elbert H. Gary, Myron T. Herrick, Henry Cabot Lodge, Charles P. Taft, Myles Standish, Charles W. Eliot, Charles Deering and W. Murray Crane.

The appeal stressed the appropriateness of commemorating the three hundredth anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims by cooperating with the Society, taking advantage of its experience of seventy-five years in family research, and aiding it in "the preservation for future generations of the family records of our forefathers, not only of the Pilgrims and their descendants, but of all other families whose progenitors, actuated by the same ideals of freedom and democracy, subsequently came to this country and shared in the making of the Nation."

The response was a notable tribute to the activities of the committee and a recognition of the influence and prestige of the Society Over 550 Pilgrim Tercentenary Members, among them representatives of many of the wealthiest and most influential families in the nation, were admitted, each contributing $300 to the Memorial Fund. Many mural tablets, most artistic and beautifully sculptured memorials, were placed in the Stair Hall, and names of those who made substantial contributions were given to memorial rooms in the Society's building.

EXTERIOR VIEW OF ASHBURTON PLACE BUILDING

The success of the Pilgrim Tercentenary Memorial Fund led to other appeals. In 1925, on the Sesquicentennial of the American Independence, thirteen stained glass memorials for the thirteen original states were embodied in memorial windows, and mural tablets were erected for each of the 48 states in the entrance hall of the Society's building, in what was henceforth to be known as the Corridor of States.

In 1928 was created a Colonial Membership which provided for membership in perpetuity for those who contributed $300. Other appeals were made, on the bi-centenary of the birth of George Washington, in 1932, to provide funds for the purchase of books for the library and in 1933 a very successful canvass was made for contributions of $100 each to a Calvin Coolidge Book Fund, for the purchase of new books. A Victory Memorial Defense Fund in 1942 and a Members' Centennial Book Fund in 1944 and 1945 were among the later appeals of the century. Attractive and appropriate book plates were created to designate the purchases made through the Coolidge and Centennial book funds.

In addition to these special campaigns the committee on membership was continually seeking new annual and life members with the result that the membership was constantly increasing, in one year alone by over seven hundred.

The library, the foundation of the Society's strength and wide repute, made tremendous strides during the twenty-five years which closed "The Century of Genealogical Progress". It had been in the capable hands of Librarian William Prescott Greenlaw for 18 years when this period opened, and Mr. Greenlaw was to continue in office until 1929, contributing a service as librarian of a quarter of a century. He was succeeded in 1929 by Miss Josephine Elizabeth Rayne; Howard D. French served from 1936 to 1940 and in the latter year the present most competent Mrs. Franklin Earl Scotty, who had been assistant librarian since 1929, was elected librarian and still holds that position.

There were some 51,000 volumes on the shelves of the library in 1920. Twenty-five years later, at the close of the Society's first century, a rough estimate places the number of books, manuscripts and miscellaneous items at 168,000, of which some 15,600 volumes are in the city and town directory library. The number of family genealogies, including duplicates, has totalled over 20,000 in bound volumes, with thousands of other family records included in town and city histories and in manuscript form.

The department devoted to town and city directories became so important a part of the Society's service that it was found necessary in 1936 to find more room and the entire collection was removed to number 7 Ashburton Place to a building owned by the Society. This collection has been of great value to lawyers, conveyancers, trust officers, city, county and state officials in tracing and locating individuals.

There were many notable additions by gift to the library during the last quarter century. Probably the most important was the Seymour Morris Collection, composed of vital records and family

data collected by Seymour Morris of Chicago, which the family donated to the library in 1931. The collection comprised 5,584 volumes and 819 pamphlets, and is valued at $40,000.

In 1923 George S. Godard of Connecticut gave to the library a Digest, Analytical and Chronological, of Connecticut Probate Papers, being the temporary folders of nearly two hundred thousand references to Connecticut probate matters.

Still another outstanding collection was the 139 volumes of Connecticut vital records compiled by Lucius B. Barbour of Hartford.

Among other donations were 35 parcels of letters of John, Thomas and Ebenezer Hancock, which, being largely historical, were placed on deposit with the Baker library at Harvard University; an index of genealogical data relating to American families in the Barbadoes; an index of English parish registers and records; miscellaneous records from the Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts Societies, Daughters of the American Revolution; the genealogical library of Mrs. Maria Olivia Le Brun of some 400 volumes and 350 pamphlets; the William Crowninshield Endicott Genealogical Collection; a set of Worcestershire Historical Society publications, an English work in 16 parts, given by Walter Goodwin Davis; the William E. Nickerson Collection, and a gift of 16 bound volumes of genealogical records from Ernest E. Fewkes, accompanied by a beautiful cabinet made by the donor.

In the meantime the Durrie and Munsell indexes, which carried down only to 1908, were supplemented by a new genealogical index, which has come to be known as the Greenlaw Index, started by Librarian Greenlaw, and provides a helpful and most indispensable index to family data found in miscellaneous prints. The index is unique in American libraries as it provides information on cards complete enough to enable the searcher to determine the probable usefulness of the data indexed, which saves the time of the searcher, needless handling of books and unnecessary wear and tear.

In the fall of 1933 the Society became the beneficiary of one of its members, Lizzie Daniel Rose Atkinson, M.D., of Newton, Mass., who willed her entire estate to the Society under certain provisions. The property included family possessions which had accumulated through five generations and these, the will stipulated, should be maintained in suitable quarters, open to the public, and be called the Atkinson-Lancaster Collection in memory of the testatrix's father and mother.

A fireproof vault, at that time vacant, was chosen for the display of this collection and lent itself happily to such alteration as was necessary. A balcony around the room holds the display cases for china, silver, glass, fabrics and small treasures, while the main floor, furnished with mahogany pieces of the Colonial and Federal periods and oriental teak and India blackwood, assumes the character of a Victorian drawing room which members of the Society use as a lounge on regular meeting days.

The collection has commanded the attention of many visitors, especially at specific exhibitions which are augmented by generous loans from members and friends of the Society. The room also

lends itself to small group meetings, most noteworthy of which is the class instituted for the study of the history of arts and crafts, now in its tenth season.

Mrs. Florence Conant Howes, long connected with the Society, was designated as curator in 1938 and has had charge of the arrangement and exhibition of the Atkinson-Lancaster Collection, and has also supervised the educational classes in the museum. Mrs. Howes also holds the office of recording secretary, to which she was appointed in 1944.

If the New England Historic Genealogical Society had done nothing else in its long life, it would probably have justified its existence by its inauguration of the state-aided program of transcribing and publishing the vital records of the cities and towns of the state.

Principally through the efforts of Edmund Dana Barbour and Librarian William Prescott Greenlaw of the Society the state legislature in 1902 passed an act guaranteeing the purchase of 500 copies each of books containing the vital records, up to 1850, of a city or town in the commonwealth, such expense not to exceed $15,000 in any one year. Such an appropriation was made through several years, discontinued at times and then renewed, but not now in force.

The Society appropriated $20,000 from its Robert Henry Eddy Fund to aid in carrying out the provisions of the act. The Essex Institute, Topsfield Historical Society and individuals coöperated. Competent persons were engaged to transcribe the vital records of various towns, after which their work was carefully verified.

The task was many times a difficult one. The early records were often undecipherable, records for some years were missing, others so worn by time and careless handling as to be almost valueless. Obviously the work of preservation had not started too soon.

However, by 1945, complete and accurate records of the births, deaths and marriages, so far as shown by the local records, of 206 towns and cities in the state had been compiled and published. Seventy-five of the volumes were contributed by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and each bears a tribute to the Eddy Town-Record Fund.

Sets of the volumes were distributed by the state among certain officials, institutions and local libraries in the commonwealth.

At the present time there are some 108 towns, incorporated before 1850, whose records have not been examined and put into print. This work should be continued for every municipality in the state until all records have been rescued from the ravages of time and permanently preserved.

The committee on heraldry, whose functions had fallen into abeyance during the World War, found a renewal of general interest in the subject by 1921. William Truman Aldrich replaced William Sumner Appleton, Jr., on the committee in 1920, so that the committee personnel then consisted of Robert Dickson Weston, chairman, Charles Knowles Bolton, William Streeter Richardson, Boylston Adams Beal and Mr. Aldrich.

But Mr. Richardson, who had served as secretary of the committee since 1914 was to pass away in 1923 and, to quote the report of 1924,

"Mr. Richardson's failing health during the spring, his long illness, and his death have rendered it impossible for the committee to accomplish anything of moment during the year." In 1923 Mr. Beal, who had served since 1905, resigned from the committee, and its number was restored to five by the appointment of Mrs. Elsie Parkinson (Burr) Sherwood as secretary and of Dr. Harold Bowditch as a member.

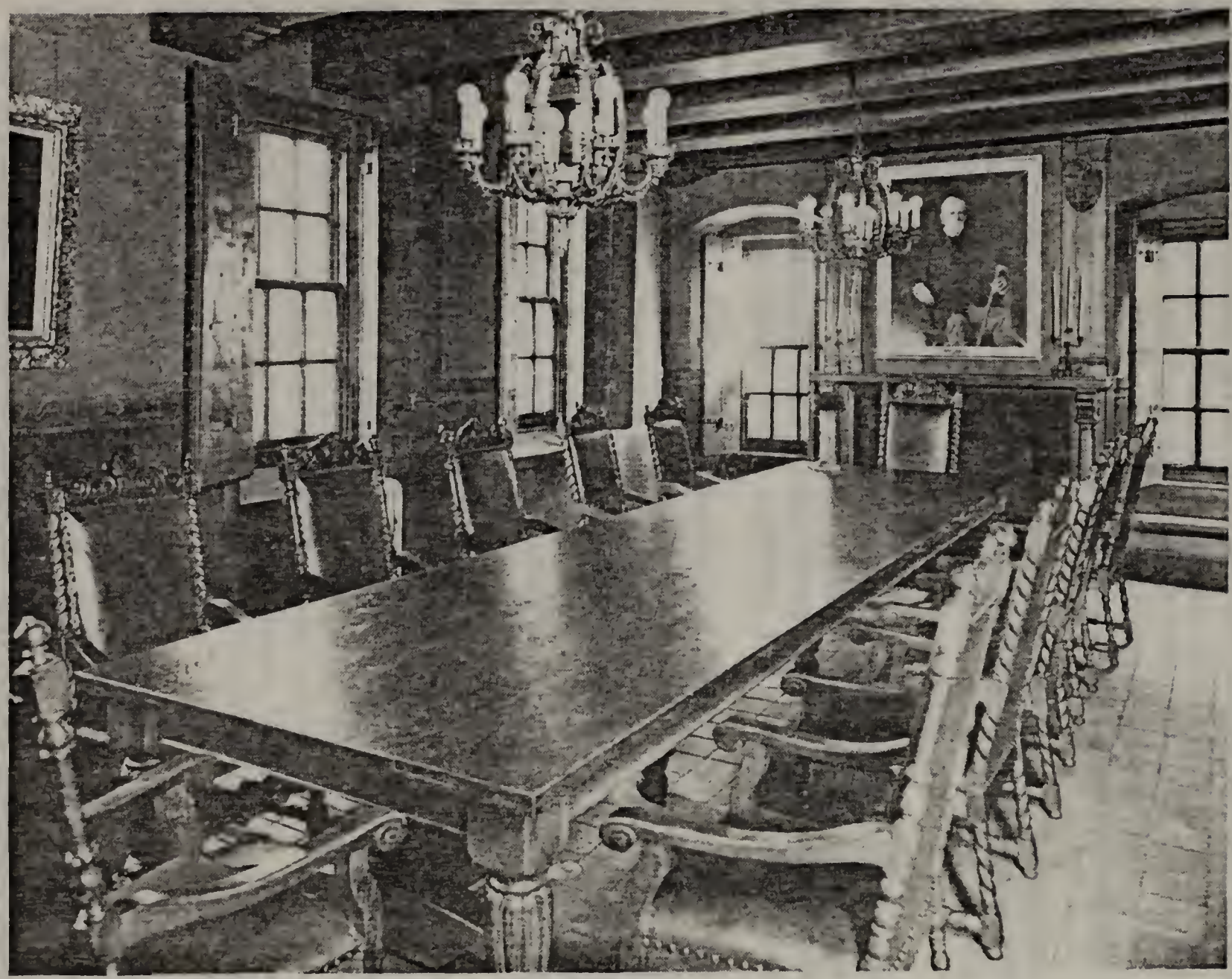
The report for 1925 suggests the publication in THE REGISTER of an illustrated list of the arms accepted by the committee, and the 1927 report tells of a revival of activity. The list of accepted arms was growing and it was decided that as soon as seventy-two had accumulated they should be printed in THE REGISTER, with six illustrations to the page. This was forecast in the report for 1928 and that year the Roll of Arms appeared in the April number of the magazine.

Mrs. Sherwood and Mr. Bolton resigned from the committee in 1925 and in 1926 were replaced by the Rev. Arthur Adams and George Andrews Moriarty. Resigning in 1929, Mr. Aldrich was replaced in 1930 by Allan Winter Rowe. Apparently the publication of the Roll of Arms stimulated interest in heraldry and for a number of years the committee published an addition to the Roll every four years. The second part was published in THE REGISTER of July 1932, containing ninety additional coats of arms, illustrated as before.

As early as 1926 the committee's seal had evoked criticism because of the use of the doves taken from the arms of the College of Arms. These were used merely to represent the subject of heraldry, but it was felt that the point was well taken, and for a number of years the members of the committee worked on a new design. Finally, in 1931, a new seal was adopted, conceived by Mr. Weston. As before, the arms were shown on a herald's tabard instead of on a shield. The arms are a ship under sail on waves of the sea, showing the cross of St. George on the mainsail and on a flag at the poop—the implication being England over-seas, or New England. This seal has been in use to the present time.

In 1934 the death of Dr. Rowe was a tragic loss to the committee. The next year Richard LeBaron Bowen was added to the committee and the new committee thus constituted, of Weston, Adams, Moriarty, Bowditch and Bowen, has served since that time, unchanged in ten years, the longest record to date.

The Society, in 1936, felt unable to bear the expense of publishing an illustrated roll, so the third part of the committee's Roll of Arms was issued independently by the committee, bringing the total number of coats to 234; and in 1940 appeared the fourth part, with a total of 306 coats, again published by the committee. It had been hoped that the fifth part might appear after another four-year period, in 1944, but the war having turned the minds of men to things far more important than heraldry it is problematical when enough coats will have accumulated to warrant printing the fifth part of the Roll of Arms.



THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

which the founders started in 1847 that members everywhere might share in the results of the Society's explorations into the genealogy of American families, and which has been issued quarterly without interruption for ninety-nine years, was continued through the last quarter century under the direction and guidance of three editors.

Henry Edwards Scott, an eminent scholar, historian and teacher, of wide travel and study, who had been made associate editor in 1912 and editor in 1913, served ably and well until advancing years brought about his retirement in 1937, when he was honored with the title of editor emeritus. He passed on Jan. 23, 1944.

Harold Clarke Durrell, became associate editor in 1929, succeeded Mr. Scott as editor in 1937 and served until death called him in 1943. Mr. Durrell had a keen and well trained mind ably fitted to genealogical work.

William Carroll Hill, of many years experience in newspaper work and the author of several books, including two genealogies, was given the call to become editor, and historian of the Society, in July 1943, and by virtue of his position took an active part in the observance of the centennial celebration.

A complete index of THE REGISTER for the first fifty volumes was issued by the Society. It is to be hoped that when the magazine has passed its centenary means may become available for the publication of a consolidated index covering the entire one hundred years.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society in its one hundred years enrolled in its membership a total of 9,359 persons, significant in itself but far more impressive when one considers the calibre and prestige of the names upon its rolls, including as they do some eleven presidents of the United States, four vice presidents, twelve Massachusetts governors, a European sovereign, college presidents, statesmen, noted historians and writers, representatives of all the states and many foreign countries.

The memberships held in the Society by classes in the first hundred years, from March 1844 to March 19, 1945 were as follows: Annual, 7,043; Honorary, 122; Corresponding, 707; Pilgrim Tercentenary, 719; Colonial, 263; life (by direct election only), 505. Total, 9,359.

The total membership of the Society upon entering into its second century is 2,356, which is divided as follows: Honorary, 11; Corresponding, 31; Pilgrim Tercentenary, 250; Colonial, 153; $100 Life, 372; $50 Life, 101; $30 Life, 5; $10 Annual, 1,350; $5 Annual, 74; $3 Annual, 9. Total, 2,356.

John Carroll Chase of Derry, N. H., was elected president of the New England Historic Genealogical Society Nov. 2, 1921 to succeed James Phinney Baxter who had died on May 8, 1921, ending over 20 years of service as head of the Society.

Mr. Chase, the thirteenth president, was a civil engineer, manufacturer, historian and genealogist. He served the Society as president for more than fourteen years and was one of its most generous benefactors. He was born in Chester, N. H., July 26, 1849, the only child of Charles and Caroline (Chase) Chase and died in Brookline, Mass., April 15, 1936, in his eighty-seventh year.

The combined presidencies of Mr. Baxter and Mr. Chase covered some 34 years, or more than one-third of the first century of the life of the organization. Mr. Baxter died in his 90th year and Mr. Chase in his 87th year and both were active and alert to the end of their days and devotedly attached to the Society.

John Carroll Chase was descended from Aquila[1] Chase who came to Hampton, Mass., before 1640, on both his father's and mother's side. The interesting and complete story of his family ancestry appeared in THE REGISTER of July 1936 by Robert Lincoln O'Brien, an intimate friend, who also well depicted in that article the many notable qualities which distinguished Mr. Chase.

Mr. Chase attended Chester Academy, later graduating from Pinkerton Academy in Derry in 1869. Throughout his life he was to be intimately connected with Pinkerton, serving on its board of trustees, as chairman of its executive committee and secretary of the Alumni Association. In fact he made the school one of the major interests of his entire life.

Mr. Chase studied engineering with the class of 1874 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and began his professional career in Manchester, N. H. For nearly a quarter of a century thereafter he was making a name and reputation for himself in great engineering projects, in Manchester, on the Sudbury River conduit of the Boston Water Works, Elevated Railway system of New York City, Clarendon Water Works Company of Wilmington, N. C., and in Albany, Ga. For a short time he was in federal service in the New York Custom House and the Naval Office.

In 1897, after residing in Wilmington, N. C., for nearly seventeen years, he returned to New Hampshire, settled at Derry, and became connected with the manufacturing business established there in 1867 by his mother's brother, Benjamin Chase, Jr. The concern manufactured specialties in wood and was most successful, and Mr. Chase after serving for some time as treasurer and general manager became president of the company in 1932. The integrity of Mr. Chase and his insistence on a superior product gave him and the Benjamin Chase Company an international reputation. During the remainder of his life in Derry Mr. Chase identified himself closely with local affairs, serving as trustee and treasurer of the Taylor Library and president of the Nutfield Savings Bank and local national bank, and all the time personally anticipating the needs of Pinkerton Academy.

John Carroll Chase had joined the New England Historic Genealogical Society as a resident member Nov. 1, 1899, was made a life member Feb. 14, 1913 and on Feb. 19, 1919 was enrolled in the newly established class of Pilgrim Tercentenary members, receiving the first certificate of such membership issued by the Society. He was elected vice president for New Hampshire Jan. 31, 1912, which office he held until Oct. 3, 1917 when he was elected vice president for Massachusetts, and on Nov. 2, 1921 he was unanimously chosen as president of the Society to succeed the venerable James Phinney Baxter. In addition to his duties as president he served on many important committees of the Society and was actively concerned

with all its affairs up to the time he last presided at a stated meeting of the Society on Jan. 3, 1936, following which he suffered an illness of some three months ending in his death.

Mr. Chase was deputy governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Boston Society of Civil Engineers, New England Water Works Association, American Public Health Association, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, New Hampshire Historical Society, Bostonian Society, Historical Society of Old Newbury, Society of Colonial Wars in New Hampshire, Massachusetts Society of Sons of the American Revolution and Bunker Hill Monument Association. He was a Mason and Knight Templar, member of the Eastern Star and an Odd Fellow. His clubs included the University, Boston City, Appalachian Mountain, Technology of New York, and University of San Diego, Calif.

Mr. Chase married first, Oct. 21, 1871, Mary Lizzie Durgin of West Newbury, Mass., who died in Wellesley, Mass., Dec. 7, 1927, by whom he had two daughters, Mrs. Raffaele Lorini (Caroline Louise Chase, B.A., Wellesley 1900) and Mrs. Samuel Cate Prescott (Alice Durgin Chase, B.A., Wellesley 1906) of Brookline, Mass., and one son Benjamin who died in infancy. He married secondly, in Vancouver, B. C., July 14, 1928, Florence Anne Buchanan of Brookline, who became a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society Oct. 2, 1928.

Mr. Chase was a voluminous writer and ready speaker on historical and genealogical subjects. He made an exhaustive study of the Chase family, both here and later while on a trip abroad in 1932. He compiled in collaboration with George Walter Chamberlain of Malden, Mass., "Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aquila and Thomas Chase" in over 600 pages. He also contributed to THE REGISTER "Some of the Descendants of William Chase of Roxbury and Yarmouth, Mass." He continued the "History of Old Chester" compiled by his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Chase, with a book of some 550 pages entitled "History of Chester, New Hampshire, including Auburn, a Supplement to the History of Old Chester".

His addresses delivered before numerous historical societies during his presidency of the Society contributed greatly to the prestige of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He was one of the principal speakers at the 75th celebration of the corporate existence of the Society and on March 18, 1935, as president, reviewed the history and achievements of the Society through its 90 years.

Mr. Chase's daughter, Mrs. Samuel Cate Prescott, was elected a resident (annual) member of the Society April 6, 1926 and transferred to life membership Dec. 31, 1928. Her husband succeeded to the Pilgrim Tercentenary membership originally held by Mr. Chase.

On the wall of the Stair Hall of the New England Historic Genealogical Society's house in Boston, Mr. Chase placed a tablet, surmounted by the representation of a ship of early Colonial days under full sail, and bearing this inscription: "Aquila Chase Mariner 1618 1670 Hampton N H 1640 Newbury Mass 1646 By old

repute the first Pilot at the mouth of the Merrimack River Erected by his descendant John Carroll Chase 1924."

Frederick Silsbee Whitwell, whose parents were descendants of long lines of distinguished New England ancestors whose sterling traits and gracious breeding were the marked characteristics of their son, became the fourteenth president of the New England Historic Genealogical Society May 5, 1936.

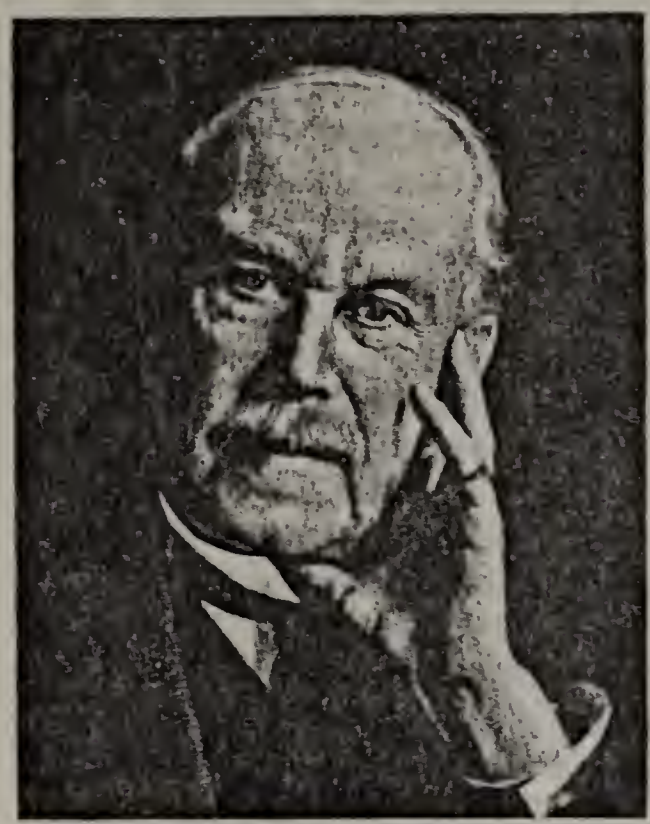
Mr. Whitwell was born in Boston March 12, 1862. He was descended from Samuel[1] Whitwell who emigrated from England to Boston and married, in Boston, Elizabeth Archer. Samuel died Oct. 3, 1722 and his wife Feb. 17, 1724. The descent was through Samuel,[2] born in Boston Dec. 17, 1717, who married Elizabeth Kelsey; Dr. Samuel,[3] born Jan. 12, 1754, who prepared for college at the Boston Latin School, received his degree from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) and studied medicine under Dr. James Lloyd. He served as surgeon of the Third Continental Regiment in the Revolution and was one of the 36 officers who, with General Washington, signed the original "Institution" of the Cincinnati Society May 13, 1783. He married Lucy Tyler, granddaughter of Judge John Tyng of Tyngsborough, Mass.; Samuel,[4] born in Newton, Mass., July 28, 1796, who married Sophia, daughter of Rev. Isaac Story; and Frederick Augustus,[5] who was born in Boston March 10, 1820, a prominent Boston merchant who married Mary Crowninshield of Salem, Mass.

Frederick Silsbee Whitwell began school life at Miss Beck's Dame School in Boston. In the summer of 1874 he spent seven months in Europe, studying German in Dresden and French in Paris. In August 1875 he entered the private school of George Washington Copp Noble and prepared for college, entering Harvard with the class of 1884. After graduation he attended Harvard Law School, received his degree and Feb. 2, 1887 was admitted to the Suffolk Bar. Soon after he made an extensive trip to the Northwest, Alaska and the Pacific Coast, returning to enter the law office of Shattuck and Munroe. A year later he resigned to enter partnership with his father and uncle handling real estate investments. After the death of his father he continued as a successful trustee of estates.

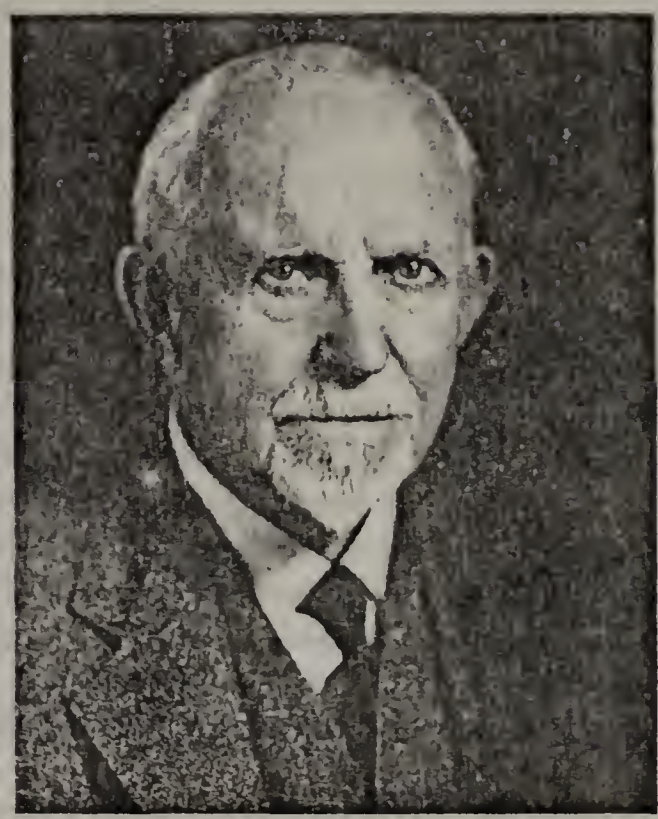
From 1900 Mr. Whitwell was closely associated with his brother-in-law, Edward W. Howard, in various enterprises in California which occasioned frequent visits to the coast.

Inspired by the notable deeds and careers of his forebears, many of whom were pioneers and builders of New England, the Dodges, Crowninshields, Conants, Bradstreets, Devereaux, Derbys, Tylers, Pickerings, Cabots and others, Mr. Whitwell turned to historic and genealogical associations with ardent appreciation of their value.

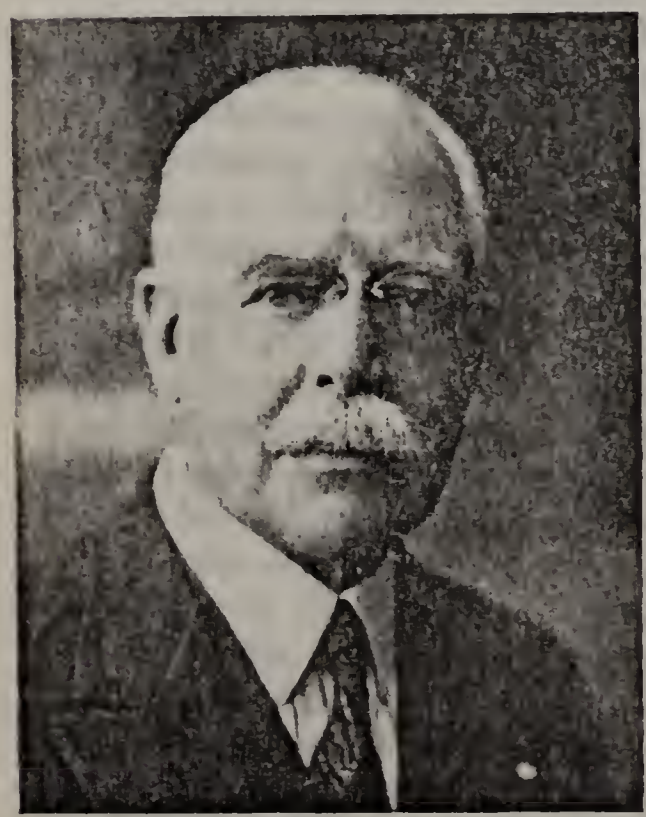
He was elected an annual member of the New England Society Jan. 31, 1928, made a councilor Feb. 5, 1930 and corresponding secretary Feb. 5, 1936 and on the death of President John Carroll Chase became the head of the Society, unanimously elected May 5, 1936. He served on various committees, including Papers and Essays, Publications, Endowments and Ways and Means and as president, was *ex officio* on the committees on Membership and Finance. He



JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER
President 1901–1921



JOHN CARROLL CHASE
President 1921–1936



FREDERICK SILSBEE WHITWELL
President 1936–1941

FREDERIC ALONZO TURNER
President 1942–

was also sponsor of the Constitutional Commemorative Fund and the Annual Membership Drive. On Feb. 11, 1941, Mr. Whitwell felt he should relinquish the office of president and resigned. His death occurred some three months later, on May 21, 1941.

Of him, the Society said in a formal vote: "To the exacting duties of President he gave of his time, interest and energy without reserve; and as presiding officer of the meetings of the Council and the Society he combined dignity, graciousness and courtesy and his decisions were always eminently fair and impartial."

Mr. Whitwell married, in Boston, Nov. 3, 1893, Gertrude Howard, a native of California, who became a member of the Society June 19, 1923. They had one daughter who died early in life.

Mr. Whitwell was a tireless worker in the Society of the Cincinnati of which he became treasurer. He was a life member of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of which he was governor from 1927 until his death. He was a director of the Bunker Hill Monument Association; president of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England from 1933; member of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and a director many years; Boston Branch of the English Speaking Union, Good Government Association, Bar Association of Boston and Massachusetts Republican Club and the first president of the Gore Place, Inc.

He was intensely interested in all that pertained to France and the French in Canada. He was most active on the New England Branch of the American Committee for Devastated France after the First World War and for his energetic endeavors was made a Chevalier and later an Officer of the Legion of Honor. Mrs. Whitwell, who had assisted her husband in work in France, was twice decorated, once with the Médaille d'Honneur and with the Médaille de la Reconnaissance. She served on the special committee on hospitality in 1935–36 and 1938–1942, was a member of the Council 1942–45 and served on the Centenary Celebration Committee in 1945.

Mr. Whitwell served on many committees in the Boston Chamber of Commerce pertaining to the welfare of the municipality of Boston; was a member of the First Corps Cadets in Boston and served in the Motor Corps during the famous Boston police strike.

Among his clubs were the Somerset, Harvard Club of Boston, Country Club of Brookline, Pacific Union Club of San Francisco, Saint Cloud Country Club of Garches, France, Cannes Country Club of Mougin, France, and Travelers Club, Union Inter-Allies, and France-Amerique Club of Paris. He was also a Mason, member of Euclid Lodge of Boston and Harvard Lodge of Cambridge.

Frederic Alonzo Turner, a native Bostonian, became the fifteenth president of the Society in 1942, having served as acting president following the retirement of Frederick Silsbee Whitwell in 1941. It became his distinction to preside over the destiny of the Society in the closing year of its first century and to continue with the opening of the second century. He had become a life member of the Society on Feb. 1, 1927, served on the council in 1933–35; committee on papers and essays 1936–39, being chairman from 1934; was corre-

sponding secretary 1936 and 1937; vice president 1937–1942; on the committee of ways and means 1938–1940; committee on revision of the by-laws 1938–39; committee on finance 1941, being chairman, committee of endowments, income and membership in 1945 and was also a member of the centenary committee.

Mr. Turner is a direct descendant in the eighth generation of Humphrey Turner, who came to Plymouth, Mass., in 1630. Through his mother, who was Cora Leslie Powell, he can trace his descent from 23 of the Mayflower Pilgrims, Dr. Samuel Fuller, William and Alice Mullins, John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, Isaac and Mary (Norris) Allerton, Mary (Allerton) Cushman, John and Eleanor Billington, Francis Billington, William and Mary Brewster, James Allerton and wife, Mary (Chilton) Winslow, Francis and Sarah Eaton, Samuel Eaton, John Tilley, John and Elizabeth Howland. In some instances Mr. Turner is descended from Mayflower Pilgrims through second lines.

After graduating from Hopkinson School in 1895 Mr. Turner entered Harvard and graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1899, receiving his LL.B. from the law school in 1902. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1903 and to the bar of the Circuit Court of the United States in 1905. He began the general practice of the law in Boston but has devoted himself particularly to probate law and the care of estates.

Mr. Turner has given faithful and devoted service to the work of the Society through many years and since becoming president has been constant in attention to the details of management.

Mr. Turner is greatly interested in music, has sung in several Boston choruses and taken part in amateur productions of comic operas. He has been active in the affairs of the Harvard Alumni Chorus and Harvard Musical Association, and enjoys yachting.

Mr. Turner has filled and is filling many positions of trust, including a director and clerk of the Boston Plate and Window Glass Co.; member of board of managers and secretary of the Home for Aged Women; treasurer of the Arlington Street Church, Unitarian; a director of the Industrial Aid Society; a trustee of the Hospital Cottages for Children at Baldwinsville, Mass.; a trustee and secretary of Derby Academy, Hingham, Mass.; a trustee of the Home Savings Bank, Boston, and treasurer of the Harvard Alumni Chorus. During World War One he served on one of the Legal Advisory Boards and during the Second World War did civilian defense work with the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety.

His club memberships include the Harvard Club of Boston, Union Club of Boston, Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hingham Yacht Club, Harvard Alumni Chorus, Harvard Musical Association, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, Bar Association of the City of Boston, Harvard Law School Association and Republican Club of Massachusetts.

The Council of the Society, as one of its final acts of the centennial year, unanimously voted to honor the long and useful career of its librarian emeritus by naming the home of the New England Historic Genealogical Society the William Prescott Greenlaw Building.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The New England Historic Genealogical Society on March 17 and 18, 1945 celebrated the passage of a hundred years since that little circle of cognoscenti, led by the dauntless Charles Ewer, instituted and legally organized a society for the study and preservation of the memory of those whose spirit had stamped itself ineffaceably upon the conscience of New England. It was not their purpose to exaggerate the virtues of their ancestors, as many of that day imputed and even so do today, but rather to shield them from misrepresentation.

The founders of the Society believed and contended that the Spirit of New England was the true Americanism, the vital and enduring Spirit of the Nation, and after the passing of a hundred years who can say but that that evocation is not as greatly needed today as in the time of our founders.

The celebration of the centennial of the New England Historic Genealogical Society eminently sustained and confirmed the wisdom of its early members when it brought together, as it did, like-minded representatives of several scores of societies and organizations devoted to the study of historic-genealogic development, most of which had come into existence since the Society was formed, and in no few instances directly because of it.

The invitations had gone out to more than three hundred such organizations in the six New England states, and that nearly one third of them responded and participated in the centennial exercises was esteemed a distinct honor not only to the founders but to the century of labor in collecting and tabulating the family histories of New England performed by the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

The exercises of March 17, 1945, held on Saturday because the actual anniversary day of securing a charter, March 18, fell upon Sunday, were held in Wilder Hall of the William Prescott Greenlaw Building at 9 Ashburton Place, in Boston. The hall, decorated with its flags of Colonial and Revolutionary days and portraits of early members, was filled to capacity, by its members, delegates from other societies and distinguished representatives of civic and educational institutions.

The exercises opened with an invocation by Dr. Phillips Endecott Osgood, rector of Emmanuel Church.

President Frederic A. Turner, as presiding officer, then announced that the Council of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, in connection with the centenary observance had felt it appropriate to invite some distinguished men to become honorary members of the Society, and accordingly he bestowed honorary membership upon Dr. Arthur Adams, professor of English of Trinity College; Dr. James Phinney Baxter 3d, president of Williams College; Dr.

Daniel L. Marsh, president of Boston University; Dr. Charles Seymour, president of Yale University and Dr. Kenneth Charles Morton Sills, president of Bowdoin College.

President Turner then proceeded with his formal remarks in which he briefly reviewed the history of the Society and some of its accomplishments, as follows:

"Dr. Adams, Dr. Osgood, Delegates from Societies, other invited guests and fellow members:

"We are gathered here today to observe and celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and it is my pleasure to extend to you the greetings of the Society. It will be just one hundred years to a day tomorrow since a charter was granted by the Massachusetts Legislature to a small group of distinguished and learned Bostonians who had conceived the idea of forming an organization which should rescue and preserve for all times the decaying records of the early families of New England.

"From very small beginnings in 1845 the Society has grown until today it enjoys an international reputation as the headquarters of American family history. Starting with hardly more than an armful of genealogical publications, which was the total output in America one hundred years ago, we have collected here within this building today some 168,000 bound volumes, 50,000 pamphlets and manuscripts all filling over a mile of shelves in our vaults.

"Charles Ewer, an eminent Bostonian of his day, was the founder of this Society and its first president. Tomorrow, in the Old Granary Burying Ground, we shall dedicate a tablet to his memory, as a part of these centennial exercises. Associated with Mr. Ewer in his plans for this Society were half a dozen other Bostonians; booksellers and publishers, a lawyer and a prominent business man.

"The details of this interesting early period of our organization need not be reviewed here. They will be found in more complete form in the history of the Society which has been written by our Editor and Historian, William Carroll Hill, and will appear throughout this year in the issues of THE REGISTER, published by our Society.

"The New England Historic Genealogical Society had its beginnings in a small room in Court Square. Later it moved to other quarters, first on Tremont Street and then on Bromfield Street; and eventually to 18 Somerset Street, close by, where it remained for some 30 years in a house purchased and owned by the Society.

"Marshall P. Wilder, a leading Boston merchant and the eighth president of this Society, was most instrumental in securing for it the first building of its own on Somerset Street; and as the name of Mr. Wilder stands out conspicuously as a great benefactor of the Society in this respect, so today we find ourselves greatly indebted to William Prescott Greenlaw, for many years our librarian and now our librarian emeritus and happily still living and active among us, to the one who, more than anyone else, was responsible for the erection of this splendid building which we occupy today and which we have enjoyed for some 33 years.

WILDER HALL

"The Society has had upon its rolls probably as distinguished a list of members as could be found in any other society in the nation. Eleven presidents of the United States, four vice-presidents, twelve Massachusetts governors, college presidents, statesmen, noted historians and writers, and others representing nearly every state in this country and many countries in almost every continent, have given their support and encouragement to our activities.

"The membership, long restricted to men, was opened to women in 1898 and there are now 2360 members.

"One of its principal services has been the lending of books to members, a practice which has grown until today we are sending out something like 800 books monthly through the mails to our members in all parts of the country.

"Compiling and printing vital records of cities and towns of Massachusetts has been carried on through coöperation with the state authorities. A Committee on English Research has been active in seeking information about American family ancestry abroad, while still another committee is active in the study of heraldry.

"While incorporated as a New England society it was no more possible to limit its activities to this field than were the same narrow confines able to restrict the population of these six states. As a result the Society has gathered for its library data about many hundreds of families wherever they are to be found, both in America and abroad.

"The Society's publication, THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, now in its 99th volume, is and always has been, a veritable storehouse of genealogical and historical information.

"In its museum, which you should visit today, are some of the priceless mementoes of earlier days. About the walls of the building you will find memorial tablets to many who have gone before, honoring many of our oldest and best-known families. In this hall, year after year, have been heard many notable speakers who have addressed the Society on topics of pertinent interest.

"Now that you have heard what this Society has accomplished in the one hundred years of its existence I am sure that you will feel that we are justified in being proud of its present position of eminence among historical and genealogical societies and of its achievements in its chosen fields; for ours has been an honorable record of service.

"As one considers the growth of the Society, measured by increase in membership and of resources, and its steadily mounting importance to New England and the nation, the greatest credit must be given to the efficiency and untiring zeal of its active staff and its officers, all of whom have given so faithfully and devotedly of their time and labors to forward its cause and to carry out its purposes; and to the members who have loyally supported their efforts; and, of course, the members make possible the continuance of an organization such as this one and its functioning through those persons appointed to administer its affairs.

"So on this day of celebration let us rejoice together because this Society has attained a ripe and prosperous old age and join in entertaining the hope that it will carry on as successfully for many years—may I say centuries—to come as it has in the past.

"As this is in part a genealogical society it is meet that we should turn our attention today to genealogy in its broader aspects and hear how the study and knowledge of this subject have developed during the last hundred years. Our speaker will tell us about this, as he is so ably qualified to do. An eminent genealogist, a member of many learned societies, he is professor of English at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and its librarian. It gives me great pleasure to present Dr. Arthur Adams, the subject of whose address will be, 'The Development of Genealogical Study Through a Century'."

Dr. Adams having been introduced by President Turner then delivered the principal address of the occasion, his subject being "The Development of Genealogical Study Through a Century." He spoke as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, members and friends of the New England Historic Genealogical Society:

"The centennial of any institution or society here in America (though centennials are coming more frequently than formerly), especially of an institution or society, that is the first of its kind and that has had a profound influence throughout its history, is an event of great interest and significance in the field to which it is devoted.

"Therefore, the centennial of our Society is a matter of no small moment to us, and of no inconsiderable interest to those men and women throughout our country, and indeed, in less measure of of course, throughout the world, who are interested in the serious study of genealogy.

"Probably here no justification or defense of the study of genealogy is needed. Yet there are many persons of education and culture, it must be admitted, who hold our subject in low esteem, who either think it so unimportant as to deserve no serious attention, or who at best look upon it with more or less tolerant amusement as the occupation of idle women, or worse idle men, who think that through the glorification of their ancestors, in some way, somehow, credit redounds to them.

"I shall not attempt a refutation of these ideas, for they have no validity for us. I might show that the results of genealogical studies have value for the social historian, the biologist, the economist, and many others. However, when opinions such as these are expressed by historians, we feel hurt and disturbed—as if we had been insulted in the house of our friends. Why some historians should feel thus, we find it hard to understand, for genealogists and historians use the same methods and in large measure, the same materials. We comfort ourselves by remembering that some of the greatest, even of modern historians, have been of a different mind and have hardly recognized History and Genealogy as different fields. Historians of

the quality and reputation of Stubbs, Green, and Round are far from disparaging genealogy, and recognize that the history of some periods at least can't be studied apart from genealogy.

"Perhaps the explanation of this attitude of the historian, of some present-day historians, let us say, may be found not in their 'superiority complex', but rather in the method, spirit, and aim of too many compilers of genealogies. It must be confessed that many genealogists, falsely so called, do lack a true historical spirit, have no understanding of historical method, and have no vision beyond the compiling of names and dates—and this done from secondary sources with no discrimination between sound work and uncritical compilations, and guiltless of references or 'documentation' of any sort. Names and dates are important, indeed they are the backbone—if properly authenticated—of both genealogy and history; but a genealogy that doesn't rise above them and reach beyond them has small, if any, excuse for being. Much that to the historian seems trivial receives disproportionate attention, much that he has a right to expect to find is lacking. In a word, the historian's attitude toward the genealogist is explained by the fact that he knows the genealogist is dealing with an historical subject in a way that no person with a grain of historical feeling can tolerate. He is justified in his own eyes and in the eyes of his peers.

"It seems strange that even after a century of the work of our Society, and of many others that have come into being through its example and influence, this state of things still persists in no small degree. However, standards are rising and sound work of a nature and quality to merit the respect and admiration of the most exacting historian is so general that any failure to measure up to the standard is at once recognized and exposed by genealogists themselves—before the historian can get to it.

"That there is no inherent conflict between the two disciplines—history and genealogy—is evident from the fact that most of our historical societies minister to both historians and genealogists. Indeed, one may safely say that three-fourths of the persons so busily 'working' in the libraries of our historical societies are there because of their genealogical interests and that three-fourths of the members of the societies are members because of this same genealogical interest.

"This community of interest between historians and genealogists, this service to both of our historical societies, makes it necessary to consider historical societies as well as genealogical societies, in speaking of the influence of our society on genealogical studies in our country during the one hundred years of its existence.

"After all, history and genealogy are simply different aspects of the study of the past, perhaps differing only in the emphasis placed on one or other of the several aspects of the same historical material. Both go back to that quality of the human mind that is perhaps the most striking difference of the human being from the rest of the animal creation. Aristotle says at the beginning of the Metaphysics that all men desire by nature to know. I might say in passing that if he had spent forty years in the effort to teach the

American college undergraduate, he might have wished to qualify that statement somewhat!

"However, genealogy owes its existence to this trait of the human spirit, and it needs no other justification, though this same high origin imposes on all devotees of the discipline to use all the powers of their minds to make their work worthy of its well-spring and inspiration.

"The admirable history of the Society by its historian, William Carroll Hill, now appearing in THE REGISTER, absolves me in large measure from any obligation to cover that ground in my address.

"My endeavor will be to take note of the several fields of genealogical study eared by our Society throughout its history and to see how the work and publications of the Society have influenced the thought, interest, and activity of other similar historical and genealogical societies as they have come into existence.

"These fields will be local history, family history, English origins of American families, and Heraldry.

"One would infer from our Society's name that our field is strictly New England. Indeed one of my dear and highly valued friends had the unmitigated 'nerve' to tell me that, after all, the New England Historic Genealogical Society is a *Boston* society. It is a New England society, but by that very fact it is a society national in its interest and appeal, because New England has been the hive from which have swarmed a large part of the people who have been most responsible for the settlement and the development of the ideals and institutions of our country from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada—and beyond—to the Gulf.

"The Society is well aware of this part played by New England in our history and feels its responsibility to the sons and daughters of New England throughout the length and breadth of our land. It welcomes members from all parts of the world where there is an interest in New England history and people, gladly prints their historical and genealogical articles in THE REGISTER, and generously lends them books and other printed material from its rich store to help them in their studies. It is the New England Historic Genealogical Society, but it is national in its appeal and in its service.

"Genealogy was, of course, no new subject or new interest in 1845. As one would expect from its name and the source of its appeal, it dates, if not from the period when man first became a living soul, then from the period when he began to make records that still survive. One has only to think of the genealogists in the Bible—the 'begats' to realize this.

"Nor do I think we can safely infer that genealogical interest was lacking among our New England forebears from the lack of printed genealogies and from the non-existence of genealogical societies. One could as safely infer a lack of interest in history from the same data. It is true that the Massachusetts Historical Society, the oldest of our historical societies, dates only from 1791; that the New York Historical Society, the wealthiest of our historical societies, dates only from 1804. But historical writing among us began much earlier, indeed dates practically from the first settlement of

CONVERSATION ROOM IN THE LIBRARY

our country. Nor was the genealogical interest and genealogical material absent from these early attempts at the writing of history here in our New England. Bradford's History, for example, is an invaluable source for both the historian and the genealogist; Cotton Mather's 'Magnalia' is likewise of the highest interest and value to both. 'The Memoirs of Captain Roger Clapp', though not so important belongs to the same genus. One might make a considerable list of materials of this kind produced in the Colonial period that would show a not inconsiderable interest and appreciation of both historical and genealogical facts on the part of our founders of New England.

"Nevertheless, it is true that but little genealogical material had been printed down to 1845.

"The most important work that had appeared was one now almost forgotten, namely, John Farmer's 'Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England', issued in Lancaster, Mass., in 1829. A large part of the February 1945 publication of the New Hampshire Historical Society, 'Historical New Hampshire', is devoted to the biography of this man and to his work.

"The following passage from the preface deserves to be quoted. It is evident that the founders of our Society shared his interests and his desire to know.

"'We are all curious to know something respecting those who have preceded us on the stage of action; and there has begun a curiosity among many of the present generation to trace back their progenitors, in an uninterrupted series, to those who first landed on the bleak and inhospitable shores of New-England. And it is not improbable that the arrival of the puritan fathers of New-England will form a more memorable epoch in history than the Conquest of England does in that country, and that posterity, a few centuries hence, will experience as much pleasure in tracing back their ancestry to the New-England colonists, as some of the English feel in being able to deduce their descent from the Normans.

"'There is a satisfaction in recognizing our first ancestor from the European continent; in knowing from what part of Great-Britain he came; where he settled, and the circumstances and condition of his family. Owing to the trials and hardships endured by the first settlers of New-England, the uncertainty of their remaining in the country, and the little time afforded them for recording family data and genealogical facts, there are but few families, who have full and complete satisfaction in each of these particulars. But some facts, even at this late period, might be known of almost every individual who settled in any of the colonies, if suitable patience, research, and industry were employed in collecting them. Our earliest records and memorials are full of information, and in regard to minuteness and accuracy will bear a comparison with those of modern date; and it is somewhat remarkable that so large a portion of them have escaped the many perils to which fire and the aboriginal wars exposed them.'

"Actuated by such ideas and ideals, the New England Historic Genealogical Society was organized in 1845. In 1847, the publica-

tion of THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER was begun, and the four numbers a year have appeared each year ever since. Except for THE REGISTER, the Society would have been, 'after all, a Boston Society'. It is THE REGISTER, together with its library, that has made the Society truly national in its influence and interests.

"From the beginning, THE REGISTER included source material, such as church records and cemetery inscriptions, articles dealing with the genealogies of early New England families, including generally the first five generations,—articles on New England Heraldry,—historical articles dealing with aspects of New England history or with particular events in New England history. Materials of value for historical or genealogical studies dealing with other sections of our country were by no means excluded. Indeed, one is continually being surprised to find such materials that he would not expect to find in a New England publication. So true is this that no student interested in the history of any part of our country, or in the genealogy of American families in any part of our country, can safely ignore THE REGISTER. Fortunately there is a very adequate index for the first fifty volumes. It is very much to be hoped that the completion of the second fifty volumes will be the signal for the preparation and publication of an equally adequate index for that fifty volumes.

"Even before the organization of our Society, a number of historical societies had been organized in New England and indeed a few outside of that area. The American Antiquarian Society was organized in 1812. It is not usually thought of as a genealogical society, but it has an admirable collection of genealogies, and of course its unrivalled collection of American newspapers makes it a library of first importance for both the historian and genealogical student.

"The Maine and the Rhode Island Historical Societies were organized in 1822; the New Hampshire Society in 1823; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1824; the Connecticut Society in 1825; the Vermont Society in 1835; the Kentucky Society in 1836; the Maryland Society in 1843; and the New Jersey Historical Society in 1845. The interests and the activities of all these societies were both historical and genealogical, and their publications were chiefly source material of value to both historians and genealogists. Indeed, it is doubtful if there was a conscious difference between the fields, as was right and proper, in the minds of the able and enthusiastic men responsible for their origin and activities. In fact, it is not till comparatively recent years, that, through the modern brood of 'historians' who are ignorant of genealogy and its possibilities that a separation has come about. For example, genealogical articles were freely admitted to the pages of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography until, let us say, twenty-five years ago. From that time, genealogical articles have been ignominiously excluded.

"It is fair, however, to say that the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania was organized as a sort of auxiliary to the Historical

Society, and has its own publication. Here, as is the case in most historical societies, three-fourths, probably even a larger percentage of those who use the library, do so because of their genealogical interests.

"Many, perhaps most, of these historical societies issued periodical publications of one sort or another, and in these publications material of genealogical interest and value received full recognition.

"Though not directly sponsored by historical societies yet owing their inspiration to them, several genealogical dictionaries on the model of Farmer's Register were compiled. Royal R. Hinman began the publication of his 'Catalogue of its Names of the Early Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut' in 1852 and carried it on till Savage's more inclusive work caused him to abandon his project. He brought his catalogue down only to the letter 'D', if I remember correctly. James Savage brought out his monumental work in four volumes, the 'Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England' between 1860 and 1862, an undertaking absorbing the greater part of his time for seventeen years. Though of course there were many errors and many omissions, the 'Genealogical Dictionary' is still a necessary tool for any student of New England family history, and will remain so until, if ever, a new enlarged and corrected edition is brought out.

"John Osborne Austin, librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, brought out his 'Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island' in 1887. It was a work of great labor, and of high quality, and is still of great value.

"The latest work of this kind is the 'Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire' that we owe to the interest, generosity, and untiring labor of our own vice-president, Walter Goodwin Davis, who was assisted by Charles Thornton Libby and Miss Sybil Noyes. This is a model for this type of genealogical work, and it is much to be hoped that similar 'Dictionaries' may be compiled for other States.

"A 'Genealogical Dictionary of New Jersey' is being compiled and published by Charles Carroll Gardner in the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey. It promises to be—indeed is, so far as it has appeared—worthy to rank with such genealogical classics as Savage, Austin, and Davis.

"The importance of carrying on work in England to ascertain the origins of the early settlers in New England was recognized from the beginning of the Society and work of the kind has been carried on almost continuously throughout its hundred years. The results of these studies whether carried on under the direct auspices of the Society or by its members and friends have appeared in the pages of THE REGISTER practically from its beginning to the present.

"The first American genealogist, perhaps, to work in England was Horatio Gates Somerby. He became a member of the Society in its first year, and in that year made his first visit to England. The rest of his life, practically, was spent in genealogical work in England. Mr. Somerby was an able genealogist, and as one would expect of a capable worker in a virgin field, he made many 'finds'. Unhappily,

he sometimes provided an ancestry for a generous client that later research has failed to verify. Though his work must be received with caution and checked before accepted, he deserves to be remembered as a pioneer in the field of research into the English origins and background of our New England settlers and for the sound work he did accomplish.

"The next American genealogist to attain eminence in the field of English research was Col. Joseph Lemuel Chester. He was Connecticut born, but lived and traveled in a number of states before going to England, chiefly in Pennsylvania. It was here that he acquired his cherished title of 'Colonel' by serving on the staff of Governor Pollock. In 1858, he went to England on a business mission, and while endeavoring to prove the tradition that a great-grandfather, Captain Uriah Rogers, of Norwich, Conn., was descended from John Rogers, who was burned at the stake for heresy during the Reformation, he became interested in genealogy, and spent the rest of his life in genealogical work in England. He proved that the tradition could not be true. Though his book was printed in 1861, countless American Rogers's still fondly believe themselves to be descended from John Rogers, the martyr. Chester early won recognition both in England and America for his work. Much of it was published in THE REGISTER though most or all of his books were published in England. On his death in 1862, he left eighty-seven folio volumes of genealogical material, each of more than four hundred pages. He was a founder of the Harleian Society, and a member of the Council of the Royal Historical Society. Columbia University conferred on him the LL.D. degree in 1877, and in 1881, Oxford gave him the degree of D.C.L. He is doubtless the only American genealogist to be honored by a tablet to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

"Following Chester, Henry Fitz Gilbert Waters carried on research in English records concerning the ancestry of New England settlers, or rather perhaps more accurately, early settlers in America, for he did not confine his work to families of New England interest. The results of his scrupulously honest, painstaking work were printed chiefly in THE REGISTER, and later collected and reprinted as the familiar 'Waters' Genealogical Gleanings in England'.

"Waters was born in Salem in 1823 and died there 16 August 1913. In 1883 he went to England to carry on his work on a slender salary guaranteed by the Society. In this connection, it may not be invidious to note the generous support given to Mr. Waters' work by the late James J. Goodwin, of Hartford. From 1883 to 1899, every issue of THE REGISTER, except three, contained a report on his work. His contributions to our knowledge of the Washington, Harvard, and Roger Williams families deserve special mention. He worked more systematically than Col. Chester, his plan being to examine all records between certain dates for anything having to do with the family of any American colonist. It seems to me that this is the proper method of approach, indeed the only way to cover the whole ground. No impossible sum of money and no very long period of time would be necessary. May we not hope that at no

ATKINSON-LANCASTER MUSEUM

very distant day interested friends and members of the Society will provide the funds to do this work under the auspices of our Society?

"After Waters retirement from the field the work was carried on by James Henry Lea and Lothrop Withington until 1909. Mr. Withington lost his life in the destruction of the Lusitania 7 May 1915. His extensive collection of English genealogical material was purchased by the Essex Institute. Mr. Withington contributed to other genealogical periodicals, notably to the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography and to the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

"In 1909, Miss Elizabeth French, later Mrs. J. Gardner Bartlett, went to England to continue the work for the Society. She worked till 1918, with gratifying results.

"In 1918, G. Andrews Moriarty, Jr., vice-president of the Society for Rhode Island, took over the work of the Committee on English and Foreign Research. It is not too much to say that since that time he has been the committee. We are all under great obligation to him and look forward with confidence to many more years of service to the Society. Mr. Moriarty is a specialist in the field of English mediaeval genealogy, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and a contributor to the new Complete Peerage, as well as to the most important genealogical periodicals in England and America. It is a satisfaction to know that THE REGISTER is one of the two periodicals in America in which a scholar in the mediaeval field can hope to have the results of his studies in genealogy published.

"Other workers in the field of English research, some of them members of the Society, deserve mention, for example, J. R. Hutchinson, Charles A. Hoppin, J. Gardner Bartlett, and at the present time S. H. Lee Washington.

"Other genealogical periodicals printed for larger or shorter periods reports on genealogical research in England, notably the Pennsylvania Magazine and the Virginia Magazine. The results are, of course, valuable, but our Society began this work, has given more attention to it than all other societies together, and is still without question supreme in it.

"Our Society has always been conscious of the interest and importance of Heraldry in genealogical studies. Indeed, it is said that the inclusion of the word 'Heraldry' in the name of the Society was seriously considered. However, it was not till 1864, I think, that a committee on the subject was appointed. For four years, 1865–1868, the members of the committee published the Heraldic Journal. The committee consisted of Messrs. Whitmore, Goodell, Perkins, and Appleton. This publication is, I believe, the only periodical in America devoted exclusively to heraldry. It includes a large amount of valuable material, and is still of first-rate importance to students of the subject.

"With the appointment of the present chairman, Robert Dickson Weston, in 1911, the committee began a new period of activity. The secretary of the committee, Dr. Harold Bowditch, is without question the most learned Heraldist in America. The work of the

committee is known and held in high esteem in both England and America, and is highly creditable to the Society.

"The activity of the Society throughout its history in encouraging the preparation of town histories should be noted, as should also its publication of its unrivalled series of the Vital Records of Massachusetts towns. It is hoped that the vital records of every Massachusetts town will in a very few more years be in print.

"The plan of organizing separately societies devoted exclusively or especially to genealogy has not been followed to any large extent, as noted both kinds of work being carried on together by most state and local historical societies.

"There are, however, a few notable exceptions to this general rule. Most important of genealogical societies, next to our own, is the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. It was organized in 1869; some of the persons most responsible for its founding were members of our Society. Quite evidently, our Society was the model and the inspiration for the new Society. Since 1870, it has published the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, next to THE REGISTER, the most important genealogical periodical published in America. The Society has a fine building and an excellent library, very rich in copies of church and other primary records of value to the genealogist.

"About 1895, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania was organized in connection with the Pennsylvania Historical Society to take over in large measure the genealogical part of the society's work. It has issued its 'Publications' since that date, and has a most useful collection of manuscript genealogical source material, especially transcripts of English and American Friends' Records. Since 1912, the National Genealogical Society, which has its headquarters in Washington, has issued the National Genealogical Quarterly. It is a small publication, but includes much of value and interest. Since 1910, the Genealogical Society of Utah has issued the Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine. Since 1925, the New Jersey Genealogical Society has issued the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, a small publication, but one of high quality.

"A number of small genealogical societies in various parts of the country are doing excellent work locally. Of course, they all are profoundly influenced by our Society, its publications, and our liberal policy of lending books to our members.

"The numerous hereditary patriotic societies have profoundly stimulated interest in both our history and in genealogy. Many of their publications consist chiefly of lists of members with the qualifying services of their ancestors, almost always without references. Even these are not without value. But a goodly number of them have published also both source-material and documented pedigrees. Whatever may be the value of their publications, and it is not inconsiderable in the aggregate, the interest in our field they create or stimulate, has brought many members to our historical and genealogical societies; we owe a debt of gratitude to them and should coöperate with them. They are for us and not at all against us.

"So, then, to bring this long address to a close, we see that the New England Historic Genealogical Society was the first in its field; that it began work in all fields—the printing of source-material for genealogical work, the printing of genealogies of early American families, the investigation in England into the origins and pre-American history of our American families, and the study of the heraldry of American families. All these lines of activity have been carried on throughout our hundred years. What has been produced is of inestimable value, but the influence of the Society through its work and especially through THE REGISTER has been even greater and has had results of incalculable value. It is gratifying to us that our Society was not only the first in the field, but that it has always been and still is first in all the fields in which it works. We look back with gratitude and admiration to the work of our founders, we admire and envy the great work done by men like Waters, to mention only one, and we look forward with confidence to what will be built on the foundations they have so well and truly laid in the next hundred years—indeed to the building on those foundations of untold centuries yet to come."

Following the address of Dr. Adams, President Turner announced that some 62 societies in New England were represented at the exercises by delegates.

The president then read a most interesting letter from the oldest member of the Society, Theodore Parker Adams, of Plymouth, Mass., in his one hundredth year, which was as follows:

"Plymouth
1st March 1945

The New England Historic Genealogical Society
Boston Mass.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society but the infirmities of age prevent. I am in my hundreth year & probably am its oldest member. I certainly must be, if reckoned from the date of admission for I think I was enrolled as a member in 1878. My father was a member in the earliest years of the Society & when I was about thirteen years old I visited with him its rooms, then on the upper floor of a building in Bromfield St., I think, & I was introduced to Messrs. Deane & Montague & other officers of the Society. I was interested in genealogy in my early years & in 1860 when I was 15 years old I published in THE REGISTER a genealogy of the Harlow family, my mother's family. It had some errors, as it was not revised with the care & accuracy of later days. A few years ago, in conjunction with Mr. Frazer I published in THE REGISTER the genealogy of the Lebanon, Connecticut branch of the Cushman family, connecting it with Elder Thomas & Robert Cushman.

I regret exceedingly that I am unable to be present on this most interesting occasion, for I have rejoiced in the growth & welfare of the Society.

[Signed] Theodore Parker Adams"

The exercises closed with informal announcements and an invitation to all those present to partake of a bounteous buffet luncheon which was served in the adjoining tea room.

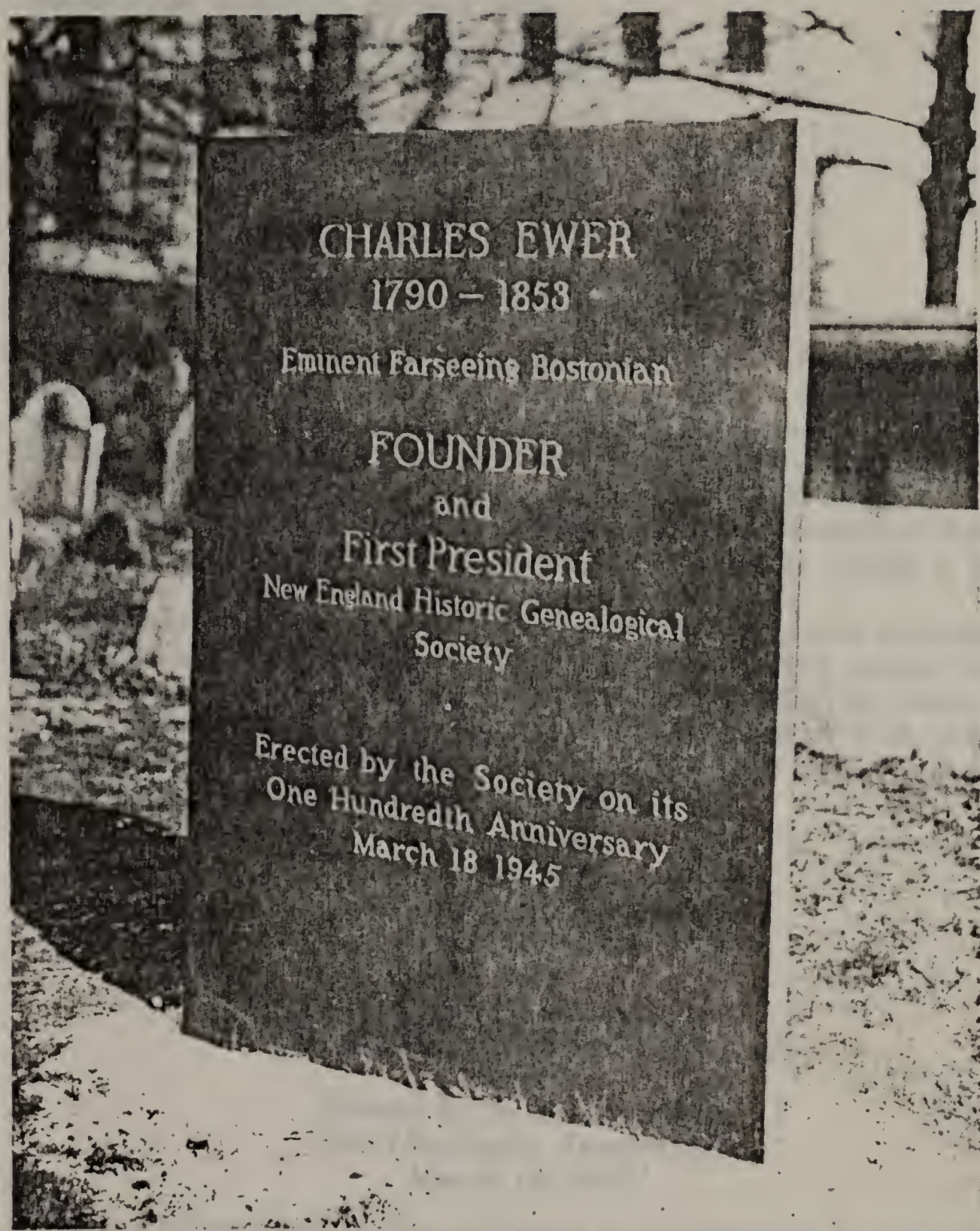
President Turner and other officers of the Society then held an informal reception in Wilder Hall, assisted by members of the general committee for the Centennial, after which members and guests were given the freedom of the building and guided by a corps

of ushers and the members of the office staff, there was inspection of the library, museum, Cabinet, and various other rooms of the building, and the many historic and memorial tablets, portraits and other treasures of the Society.

The Centennial Committee created by the Society to formulate and carry out plans for the celebration of the anniversary consisted of John McKinstry Merriam, chairman; President Frederic Alonzo Turner, William Prescott Greenlaw, Mrs. Joseph Curtis Howes, Mrs. Frederick Silsbee Whitwell, Mrs. Stanwood Gray Wellington, James M. Hunnewell and William Carroll Hill.

The following is the list of those societies and institutions which sent delegates to the centennial exercises in Boston:

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.
Androscoggin Historical and Antiquarian Society, Auburn, Maine.
Ashland Historical Society, Ashland, Mass.
Bangor Historical Society, Bangor, Maine.
Bellingham-Cary House Association, Chelsea, Mass.
Block Island Historical Society, Block Island, R. I.
Boston Athenaeum, Boston, Mass.
Bourne Historical Society, Bourne, Mass.
Boxford Historical Society, Boxford, Mass.
Bradford Historical Society, Bradford, Mass.
Braintree Historical Society, Braintree, Mass.
Bristol Historical Society, Bristol, R. I.
Canton Historical Society, Canton, Mass.
Cape Ann Historical Association, Gloucester, Mass.
Dover Historical and Natural History Association, Dover, Mass.
Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Duxbury, Mass.
Essex Historical Society, Essex, Mass.
Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.
Fitchburg Historical Society, Fitchburg, Mass.
Hamden Historical Society, Hamden, Conn.
Harvard Historical Society, Harvard, Mass.
Haverhill Historical Society, Haverhill, Mass.
Hingham Historical Society, Hingham, Mass.
Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass.
Hudson Historical Society, Hudson, Mass.
Isle La Motte Historical Society, Isle La Motte, Vt.
Littleton Historical Society, Littleton, Mass.
Lynn Historical Society, Lynn, Mass.
Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.
Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.
Nashua Historical Society, Nashua, N. H.
Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, Mass.
Needham Historical Society, Needham, Mass.
New England Methodist Historical Society, Boston, Mass.
New Gloucester Historical Society, New Gloucester, Maine.
New Hampshire Antiquarian Society, Hopkinton, N. H.
New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N. H.
New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Conn.
New Ipswich Historical Society, New Ipswich, N. H.
Northborough Historical Society, Northborough, Mass.
Northfield Historical Society, Northfield, Mass.
Norwood Historical Society, Norwood, Mass.
Old Abington Historical Society, Abington, Mass.
Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Dartmouth, Mass.
Old Middleborough Historical Association, Middleborough, Mass.
Orange Historical Society, Orange, Mass.
Ossipee Historical Society, Ossipee, N. H.
Peabody Historical Society, Peabody, Mass.



SOCIETY'S MEMORIAL TO ITS FOUNDER
UNVEILED MARCH 18, 1945

Peacham Historical Association, Peacham, Vt.
Plymouth Antiquarian Society, Plymouth, Mass.
Portsmouth Historical Society, Portsmouth, N. H.
Poultney Historical Society, Poultney, Vt.
Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Mass.
Reading Antiquarian Society, Reading, Mass.
Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.
Rowley Historical Society, Rowley, Mass.
Royall House Association, Medford, Mass.
Sandy Bay Historical Society, Rockport, Mass.
Shepard Historical Society, Cambridge, Mass.
Suffield Historical Society, Suffield, Conn.
South Natick Historical Society, South Natick, Mass.
Swansea Historical Society, Swansea, Mass.
Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vt.
Walpole Historical Society, Walpole, N. H.
Westborough Historical Society, Westborough, Mass.
Westerly Historical Society, Westerly, R. I.
Western Hampden Historical Society, Westfield, Mass.
Worcester County Historical Society, Worcester, Mass.

Upon the actual centennial anniversary day of the issuance of a charter to the Society, Sunday, March 18, 1945, a final interesting observance took place in the Granary Burying Ground on Tremont Street, at the grave of Charles Ewer, founder of the Society, when some fifty members of the Society gathered at 12:30 o'clock.

A prayer was offered by Rev. Palfrey Perkins, minister of King's Chapel, after which President Turner proceeded to deliver a brief address on the life and work of Charles Ewer.

A new blue slate stone, in keeping with the venerable headstones of Boston's ancient cemetery, which the Society had caused to be erected at the tomb of Charles Ewer, was then unveiled by Frank M. Ewer, a descendant of Charles Ewer's uncle, present with several other members of the collateral branch of the Charles Ewer family.

The stone bore the following inscription:

Charles Ewer
1790–1853
Eminent Farseeing Bostonian
FOUNDER
and
First President
New England Historic Genealogical
Society
Erected by the Society on its
One Hundredth Anniversary
March 18, 1945.

Rev. Palfrey Perkins then delivered the invocation in the following words:

"O Thou who art the God and Father of all the generations of men, who holdest all souls in Thy mighty keeping, who remembrest the days of our years and layest to account the record of our lives, be with us we pray Thee, as we gather here to commemorate one whose name and dwelling place and every need Thou knowest. Look with Thy favor upon this act of piety and gratitude, that the

inscribing of this name may remind all who pause to read, in the noise and hurry of our world—of one who in an earlier and quieter time gave generously the gifts of a zealous spirit, a questing mind, and a faithful life.

"Send Thy blessing upon Thy servants—the members of this Society—who record and make known the chronicles of days long gone, so that

"'Generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs'

"Unto Thee do we lift up our hearts and unto Thee do we ascribe all glory, dominion, majesty and power—world without end.

Amen."

APPENDIX

CHARTER AND ENABLING ACTS

An Act to incorporate the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECT. 1. Charles Ewer, J. Wingate Thornton, Joseph Willard, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and occasionally publishing, genealogical and historical matter, relating to early New England families, and for the establishment and maintenance of a cabinet; and for these purposes, shall have all the powers and privileges, and, be subject to all the duties, requirements and liabilities, set forth in the forty-fourth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

SECT. 2. The said corporation may hold and possess real and personal estate, to an amount not exceeding twenty thousand dollars.

[*Approved by the Governor, March 18, 1845.*]

Acts and Resolves of the General Court of Massachusetts, 1845, chapter 152.

An Act to enable the New England Historic-Genealogical Society to hold an additional amount of property.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society may take, by purchase, gift, grant or otherwise, and hold, real and personal estate not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, in addition to the amount authorized by the second section of chapter one hundred and fifty-two of the acts of the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 1, 1868.

Acts and Resolves, 1868, chapter 100.

An Act to enable the New England Historic-Genealogical Society to hold additional real and personal property.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society may take by bequest, gift, grant, or otherwise, and hold, real and personal estate not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars in value in addition to the amount authorized by section two of chapter one hundred and fifty-two of the acts of the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, and by section one of chapter one hundred of the acts of the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and exclusive of the value of all books, papers, pictures and statuary now owned, or which may be hereafter acquired by said society.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 13, 1888.

Acts and Resolves, 1888, chapter 227.

An Act to enable women to become members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, a corporation organized under the laws of this Commonwealth, may admit women to membership, subject to such restrictions as the by-laws of said corporation may from time to time impose.

Approved April 10, 1897.

Acts and Resolves, 1897, chapter 275.

The following is from the *Revised Laws of 1902, Corporation Acts, chapter 125, section 8:*

Any corporation organized under general or special laws for any of the purposes mentioned in section two [educational, charitable, antiquarian, historical, literary, scientific, etc.] . . . may hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding one million five hundred thousand dollars.

FIRST CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE SOCIETY

An institution has been formed in Boston, by the name of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, for the purpose of collecting and preserving the genealogy and history of the early New England families. The object of this Association has justly been regarded as one of great importance, as well as curiosity, both in a physical and social point of view. The minds of men are naturally moved to know something of their progenitors—those from whom they have derived their being; and there seems to be an increasing interest in this subject; many are trying to trace their genealogy back at least to the first settlers—the early pilgrims of this country. The Society proposes to cultivate this taste, and give such a direction to these inquiries as well as facilitate their labors, and render them of practical importance to individuals and the public. We wish, by united action, and through the aid of our extensive collections of printed and manuscript works, to furnish the means to every person, descended from an early inhabitant of New England, of tracing his genealogy and history. When our collection shall be sufficient, the Society propose to publish a Genealogical and Biographical Dictionary or History of all New England Families. The present time is deemed a suitable one for instituting inquiries of this nature, since the sources of information, by the death of elderly persons, and the destruction of records, are daily becoming lessened, and soon it will be impossible to obtain the desired information at all. In accomplishing their objects, the Society propose to obtain, by solicitation or otherwise, books, papers, original manuscripts, and written communications, relating to them. It is also their intention to suggest the best methods of making genealogical investigations, and the best forms for keeping family registers, and for the public records of births, marriages, and deaths. All donations, either in print or manuscript, will be deposited in the library of the Society, for the use of the members and others; and a description of them carefully entered on the records, in connection with the name of the donor. Should you feel disposed to forward to the Society any book, or original manuscript, or to compile a biographical or genealogical memoir of an individual or family, selected by yourself or proposed by the Society, and particularly your own family or connections, you will confer a public benefit, and particularly oblige its members. It is hoped you will so far favor our purpose as to make such contributions as your convenience may permit. The Society will be pleased to receive suggestions, and to correspond with individuals in relation to their objects.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

Boston, 18 Corresponding Secretary.

N. B. All communications may be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary. In forwarding documents to the Society, it is requested that a private conveyance may be adopted, instead of conveyance by mail.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1845

CHARLES EWER, *President*
LEMUEL SHATTUCK, *Vice-President*
J. WINGATE THORNTON, *Recording Secretary*
SAMUEL G. DRAKE, *Corresponding Secretary*
WM. HENRY MONTAGUE, *Treasurer*

The Society will gratefully receive donations of the following description:

1. Printed Books, containing memoirs of individuals or families, Funeral Sermons, Epitaphs, Engraved Portraits, and every other printed documents or work, which can, in any way, elucidate the lives and actions of the early inhabitants of New England or their descendants.
2. Manuscript Documents, containing original copies or abstracts of wills, deeds, settlement and distribution of estates, letters and autographs, coats of arms, &c.
3. Original, or copies of Family Registers, or Bibles, containing records of births, marriages, and deaths.
4. Original Manuscripts, containing the Genealogy, Biography, or History of early New England names, or their descendants.
5. Newspapers, or parts of Newspapers, and other periodical works, containing marriages and deaths, or obituary, or biographical notices.

CONSTITUTION

of the

New England Historic, Genealogical Society

Article 1. The Society shall be called The New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Article 2. The object of the Society shall be to collect and preserve the Genealogy and History of early New England Families.

Article 3. The Society shall be composed of Resident, Corresponding, and Honorary Members, who shall be elected by ballot, having been nominated by the Board of Directors at a previous meeting.

Article 4. Each Member shall pay into the Treasury, on his admission, the sum of three dollars, and two dollars annually.

Article 5. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and a Treasurer, who, together, shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Article 6. The Society shall meet quarterly, in the city of Boston, on the first Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October, to transact business; and at such other times as the Board of Directors shall appoint. The officers of the Society shall be chosen at the January meeting, by ballot.

Article 7. By-Laws, for the more particular government of the Society, shall be made by the Board of Directors.

Article 8. No Alteration of this Constitution shall be made, except at the Quarterly Meeting, on recommendation of the Board of Directors, and by a vote of three fourths of the Members present.

OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

The object of the institution is the good of the *whole* community. Nothing, therefore, like exclusiveness has governed its original founders. They have acted upon the principle, that, to make it extensively useful, its branches should be made to spread over all parts of New England; and over all lands, wherever the sons of New England are found. Hence, they have elected their corresponding members with especial reference to this consideration,—governed always by the interest manifested in the cause on the part of those invited to become members—*From Circular Number Three.*

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

Charles Ewer	1845–1850
Joseph Barlow Felt, LL.D.	1850–1853
William Whiting, LL.D.	1853–1858
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1858–1859
Almon Danforth Hodges	1859–1861
Winslow Lewis, M.D.	1861–1866
John Albion Andrew, LL.D.	1866–1867
Marshall Pinckney Wilder, LL.D.	1868–1886
Abner Cheney Goodell, A.M.	1887–1892
William Claflin, LL.D.	1892–1898
Edward Griffin Porter, A.M.	1899–1900
James Phinney Baxter, Litt.D.	1901–1921
John Carroll Chase	1922–1936
Frederick Silsbee Whitwell, LL.B.	1936–1941
Frederic Alonzo Turner, LL.B.	1942–

TREASURERS OF THE SOCIETY

William Henry Montague	1845–1850
Frederic Kidder	1851–1854
John Ward Dean	1855–1856
Isaac Child	1857–1859
George Washington Messinger	1860
William Blanchard Towne	1861–1871
Benjamin Barstow Torrey	1871–1903
Nathaniel Cushing Nash	1904–1907
Francis Apthorp Foster	1907
Charles Knowles Bolton	1908–1912
Charles Edward Lord	1913–1915
Lew Cass Hill	1916–1917
George Lambert Gould	1918–1921
James Melville Hunnewell	1922–1943
Alexander Bigelow Ewing	1943
Everett Jefts Beede	1944–

LIBRARIANS OF THE SOCIETY

John Wingate Thornton	1845
Edmund Batchelder Dearborn	1846–1848
David Pulsifer	1849–1850
Thomas Bellows Wyman	1851
William Blake Trask	1852–1854
Rev. Luther Farnham	1854–1856
Thomas Bellows Wyman	1856–1857
Edward Holden	1858–1859
William Blake Trask	1859–1860
John Hannibal Sheppard	1861–1869
William James Foley	1870–1871
James Frothingham Hunnewell	1872
John Ward Dean	1872–1889
Ezra Hoyt Byington	1891–1892
Henry Winchester Cunningham	1892–1893
John Ward Dean	1893–1902
William Prescott Greenlaw	1902–1929
Josephine Elizabeth Rayne	1929–1936
Howard Dakin French	1936–1940
Mrs. Franklin Earl Scotty	1940–

RECORDING SECRETARIES OF THE SOCIETY

John Wingate Thornton	1845–1846
Rev. Samuel Hopkins Riddel	1846–1851
Charles Mayo	1851–1856
Francis Brinley	1856
David Pulsifer	1857
William Mason Cornell	1858–1859
Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee	1859–1862
Edward Franklin Everett	1862–1863
Edward Sprague Rand, Jr.	1863–1870
Samuel Hidden Wentworth	1870–1873
David Greene Haskins, Jr.	1873–1890
George Kuhn Clarke	1890
Gustavus Arthur Hilton	1891–1892
George Augustus Gordon	1893–1909
John Albree	1910–1915
Alfred Johnson	1916–1917
Henry Edwards Scott	1918–1937
Everett Jefts Beede	1938–1944
Mrs. Florence Conant Howes	1944–

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
1845–1945

John Quincy Adams
John Singleton Copley
William Jenks
Daniel Greenleaf
Samuel Appleton
George Bancroft
Josiah Quincy
Harrison Gray Otis
Ebenezer Turell Andrews
Hermann Ernst Ludewig
David Sears
John Pierce
Benjamin Shurtleff
Robert Gould Shaw
Lemuel Shaw
Charles Lowell
Richard Sullivan
Dudley Hall
Amos Lawrence
Joseph Sewall
James Brown Thornton
Samuel Hubbard
Samuel Sumner Wilde
Abel Cushing
Samuel Hoar
Nathan Appleton
Jonathan Phillips
George Nixon Briggs
William Hickling Prescott
Rufus Choate
Peleg Sprague
George Cheyne Shattuck
David Appleton White
Daniel Webster
Albert Gallatin
William Cranch
Charles Henry Warren
Henry Clay
Benjamin Silliman
Daniel Pinckney Parker
Isaac P. Davis
John Davis
Washington Irving
James Kent
Timothy Pitkin
Theron Metcalf
Lewis Cass
James Cushing Merrill
Levi Woodbury
David Henshaw
Charles Augustus Dewey
Mahlon Dickerson
Samuel Breck
William Edward Mayhew
Thomas Sergeant
George Peabody
Noah Martin
Russell Sturgis
Millard Fillmore
Gustavus Swan
John Wheeler
John Collins Warren
William Allen
Joseph Barlow Felt
James Walker
Timothy Farrar
John Tyler
Samuel Gardner Drake
Cornelius Conway Felton
Joseph Richardson
Sir Frederick Madden
William Willis
Louis Adolphe Thiers
George Rapall Noyes
Ezekiel Whitman
Thomas Hill
Sir John Bernard Burke
Sir Thomas Phillipps
Edwin Augustine Dalrymple
Philip Henry (Earl) Stanhope
François Pierre Guillaume
Reuben Hyde Walworth
Horace Binney
Ulysses Simpson Grant
Nathan Clifford
Joseph Smith
John Johnson
Rutherford Birchard Hayes

John George Edward Henry Douglas Sutherland Campbell Marquis of Lorne (Duke of Argyll)
Chester Alan Arthur
William Ewart Gladstone
Morrison Remich Waite
Benson John Lossing
George Henry Moore
John Gilmary Shea
David Masson
James Macpherson Le Maine
George William Curtis
Nathaniel Holmes Morison
Sir John Campbell Allen
Edward Augustus Freeman
Charles Kendall Adams
Sir Theodore Martin
James Anthony Froude
James Bryce
William Edward Hartpole Lecky
William Wetmore Story
Andrew Dickson White
Melville Weston Fuller
Rt. Hon. Sir George Otto Trevelyan, Bart.
Woodrow Wilson
George Gerg Milner-Gibson-Cullum
Charles William Eliot
Abbott Lawrence Lowell
William Howard Taft
Arthur Twining Hadley
Albert Leopold Clement Marie (Albert I of Belgium)
Warren Gamaliel Harding
Hubert Hall
Sir Henry Farnham Burke
John Venn
Caroline Hazard
Sir Henry Churchill Maxwell-Lyte
Myron Timothy Herrick
Elihu Root
Charles Evans Hughes
Herbert Clark Hoover
Emma Toedteberg
Ellen Fitz Pendleton
Arthur Prentice Rugg
Andrew William Mellon
Ray Lyman Wilbur
James Truslow Adams
James Rowland Angell
Mrs. Calvin Coolidge
James Bryant Conant
William Archer Rutherfoord Goodwin
Douglas Southall Freeman
Albert Bushnell Hart
Arthur Adams
James Phinney Baxter 3d
Isaiah Bowman
Charles Seymour
Kenneth C. M. Sills
Daniel L. Marsh

EDITORS OF THE REGISTER

Rev. William Cogswell, D.D.	1847
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1848 Jan. 1849
William Thaddeus Harris, A.M.	1849 Apr., July, Oct.
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1850 Jan.
Nathaniel Bradstreet Shurtleff, M.D.	1850 Apr., July, Oct.
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1851
Rev. Joseph Barlow Felt, LL.D.	1852 Jan., Apr.
Timothy Farrar, LL.D.	1852 July
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1852 Oct.
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1853–1858
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1859–1860 Jan., Oct.
William Henry Whitmore, A.M.	1859–1860 Jan., Oct.
John Ward Dean, A.M.	1859–1860 Jan., Oct.
Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.	1861 Jan., Oct.
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1862 Jan.
Rev. Elias Nason, A.M.	1862 Apr.
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1862 Jan.
Rev. Elias Nason, A.M.	1862 Apr.
Charles Hudson, A.M.	1862 July
John Ward Dean, A.M.	1862–1863 Oct.
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1864 Jan., Apr.
John Ward Dean, A.M.	1864 July, Oct.
William Blake Trask, A.M.	1865
Rev. Elias Nason, A.M.	1866–1867
Albert Harrison Hoyt, A.M.	1868–1875
John Ward Dean, A.M.	1876–1901
Henry Ernest Woods	1902–1907
Francis Apthorp Foster	1908–1912
Henry Edwards Scott	1913–1937
Harold Clarke Durrell	1938–1943 Jan., Apr., July
William Carroll Hill	1943 Oct.–

(Copy of original announcement in 1846)

PROSPECTUS
of the
Genealogical and Antiquarian Register

The New England Historic-Genealogical Society proposes to publish by subscription a Quarterly Journal, to be entitled, "The Genealogical and Antiquarian Register". The period has arrived in this country, when an awakened and growing interest begins to be felt in the pursuit, and especially in the results of Genealogical and Antiquarian Researches; and when the practical value, both to individuals and to Society, of the knowledge which is gathered by investigations of this kind, from the scattered and perishable records of local, domestic, and traditionary history, begins to be appreciated by increasing numbers. The existence, and active exertions of Historical, Antiquarian and Statistical Societies which have sprung up within a few years past in most of the older States of the Union, is a sufficient evidence of this fact.

The formation of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, which received its Charter of Incorporation from the Massachusetts Legislature during their last session, and which, as its name imports, proposes to direct its attention to the illustration of History in one of its most elemental and original departments, has been received with a degree of encouragement and favor which leaves no room to doubt that a deep interest is felt by many in the community, in subjects of this nature; and that the materials exist, in various stages of preparation as the fruit of personal diligence, for enriching the collections of a general Depository; and thereby leading to a more extensive exchange of the facts and documents out of which this branch of Literature in our country has yet to be almost created. It is proposed by this Society, as one important means of accomplishing the end which it has in view, to issue a Quarterly Periodical, with the title above mentioned; to comprehend among its contents, such materials as the following, viz:—

1. Biographical Memoirs, Sketches and Notices of persons who came to North America, especially to New-England, before Anno Domini 1700; showing from what places in Europe they came, their families there, and their descendants in this country:—

2. Full and minute Genealogical Memoirs and Tables, showing the lineage and descent of families, from the earliest dates to which they can be authentically traced, down to the present time, with their branches and connexions;—

3. Lists of names found in ancient documents, such, especially as were engaged in any honorable public service; also the documents themselves, when they may contain any important facts illustrative of the lives and actions of individuals;—

4. Descriptions of Costumes belonging to the earliest times to

which the ancestry of families may be traced; also their dwellings, buildings and utensils of every description; to be accompanied, when practicable, with drawings;—

5. Ancient Inscriptions and Epitaphs, with descriptions of Cemeteries, Monuments, Tombs, Tablets, &c. Also, extracts from the Town and Parish Records of New England;—

6. Descriptions of Armorial Bearings, and of other Heraldic devices, occasionally emblazoned, with sufficient explanations of the principles and terms of Heraldry.

The Publication will embrace many other materials of a Miscellaneous character, more or less connected with its main design; which, it is believed, will contribute to render it interesting to intelligent persons of every class in the community.

Conditions

The work will be issued Quarterly; each Number to contain ninety-six pages, octavo, upon good paper, and a fair type; making an annual volume of about four hundred pages.

The price to Subscribers will be Two Dollars a year, payable on the delivery of the second Number.

Subscription Papers to be returned to the address of Saml. G. Drake, Boston.

N. B. After more mature deliberation the founders decided the magazine should be called "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register."—*Editor.*

MEMORIALS

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

In the Corridor of States are six beautiful stained glass windows representing twelve of the original Thirteen Colonies, while Massachusetts is represented by a stained glass transom window over the main entrance. Each of the windows carry the names of the donors whose contributions made possible the memorials.

FOUNDERS OF AMERICA MEMORIAL

At the bottom of the Pilgrim Tercentenary Stairway, beside the entrance to Wilder Hall, is a massive bronze memorial erected on the anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims in 1920, as a tribute to all the founders of America, contributed by individuals in the name of some ancestor or kinsman for remembrance. The list of contributors and their honored ones is as follows:

Frederick Fanning Ayer to Lawrence Southwick
George Fisher Baker to Fisher Ames Baker
Charles Hammatt Bartlett to Josiah Bartlett, M.D.
Joseph Dayton Bascom to Thomas Bascom
Charles Albert Brackett to Capt. Richard Brackett
George Raymond Bunker to George Bunker
Carl Casey to Lyman Rufus Casey
Emily (Coolidge) Chapin to Henry Austin Chapin
Joseph Dowd to Priscilla Mullins
Henry Manning Garlick to Theodatus Garlick, M.D.
H. Wales Lines to Ralph Lines
Edith Lombard to Thomas Prence
William Gilman Low to Rev. John Wise
George Pope MacNichol, M.D., to Delia Helen Burrall MacNichol
Charles A. Nolting to Charles Thomas Clifton
Edward Stevens Page to Samuel Pierpont Langley
Isaac Merrick Pease to Philo Pease
Howard Everett Perry to Ezra Perry
William Rockefeller to Eliza Davison Rockefeller and Lucy Avery Rockefeller
Alfred Lee Shapleigh to Alexander Shapleigh
Frederick Sturges, Jr., to Hon. Jonathan Sturges
Josiah Van Kirk Thompson to Thomas Thompson and Finley Thompson
Alden Augustus Thorndike to John Thorndike
Catharine Lasell Whitin to Josiah Lasell
Cora Talmadge Woodward to Henry Woodward

MEMORIALIZED ROOMS

MARSHALL PINCKNEY WILDER AUDITORIUM
THE JOHN FOSTER MEMORIAL ROOM—Council Chamber
WILLIAM STREETER RICHARDSON MEMORIAL ROOM—Headquarters of Committee on Heraldry
THE MOSES KIMBALL MEMORIAL ROOM—Headquarters of S. A. R.
THE ATKINSON-LANCASTER COLLECTION—Museum
THE WILLIAM TRACY EUSTIS MEMORIAL ROOM—Office of Treasurer
THE ROBERT HENRY EDDY MEMORIAL ROOMS—Editorial offices
SEYMOUR MORRIS MEMORIAL READING ROOM—Library
WILLIAM SANFORD HILLS MEMORIAL ROOM—Library conversation room

LIBRARY STACKROOM MEMORIALS

Alcove No. 1

Inscribed to the memory of
Francis Shubael Smith, 1819–1887
Publisher, Writer and Poet
by his daughter, Cora Smith Gould

Alcove No. 2

In Memoriam
Samuel Burnham Shackford, 1871–1934
Whose Genealogical Library
Was given to the Society by his Brother and Sister

Alcove No. 3

Inscribed to the memory of
Edwin Butler Hale, 1819–1891
and his wife
Susan Converse Hoyt, 1827–1903
By their daughter, Edith Hale Harkness

Alcove No. 4

Given by Eldon Bisbee
in honor of his father
Col. Horatio Bisbee, 1839–1916
and his grandfather,
Horatio Bisbee, 1800–1881

Alcove No. 5

Inscribed to the memory of
Brackett Halford Clark, 1821–1900
and his wife
Lucretia Bowker, 1822–1912
By their son, George Halford Clark

Alcove No. 6

In Memoriam
Colonial Ministers

Peter Bulkeley, 1583–1659
John Jones, 1593–1665
Samuel Wakeman, 1635–1692
Peter Prudden, 1600–1656
Francis Higginson, 1587–1630
Nathaniel Huntting, 1675–1753

Given by Helen Gould Shepard

Alcove No. 7

In Memoriam
George Sumner Mann, 1834–1909
Brookline, Mass.

Alcove No. 8

Given by
George A. Ball and Family
1936

MEMORIAL TABLES IN LIBRARY

Daughters of Colonial Wars Mass. 1930

Herbert H. Franklin

Colonel Franklin Q. Brown

Ethel Fleet Hallock DuPont
In Memory of
Homan Hallock
Type Founder and
Missionary Printer
Born May 24, 1803
Died October 19, 1894

J. Gardner Bartlett 1872–1927

Charles Deering 1852–1927

John Carroll Chase 1849–1936
In Memoriam
John Carroll Chase 1849–1936
President of the New England Historic
Genealogical Society 1921–1936

Given by Franklin Webster Cram 1846–1929
In memory of
Hannibal Hamlin LL.D.
1809–1891
In memory of
Samuel Thorne
1835–1915
Capitalist
In memory of
John Crosby Brown LL.D.
1838–1909
Banker
In memory of
William Howard Taft LL.D.
1857–1930
Jurist and Statesman

Rev. Increase Niles Tarbox D.D.
In Memoriam
Rev. Increase Niles Tarbox D.D.
Feb. 11, 1815–May 3, 1888
Historiographer 1881–1888

PILGRIM TERCENTENARY STAIRWAY TABLETS

Henry Adams and John Adams, by Edward Dean Adams
Andrew Adie
John Alden and Everett Frazar, by Everett W. Frazar
James Buchanan Austin, by Frederick Carleton Austin
Pierre Bacot, by John Vacher Bacot
Thomas Barber, by Edward Wilmot Barber
William Betts, by John A. Roebling
Richard Bourne, by Benjamin Franklin Bourne
John McEntee Bowman
Elder William Brewster, by George Stephenson Brewster and Frederick Foster Brewster
Jacob Brittin and Daniel Baker, by Abraham Brittin
Richard Brookings and Charles Broquin, by Robert Somers Brookings
Barnard Capen, wife Joan and son Capt. John, by Gertrude Capen Whitney and Annie Capen Willet
Aquilla Chase, by John Carroll Chase
Mary Chilton and Caroline Perry Woodward, by John Parker Hale Cunningham
Josiah Churchill, Nathaniel Page and Dr. John Durand, by Elizabeth (Churchill) Spalding
William Clarke and Myron Holley Clark, by Mary Clark Thompson
Edward Converse and John Cogswell, by Edmund Cogswell Converse
William Wallace Crapo, by William Crapo Durant
Roger Deering, by Charles Deering
Abraham Dickerman and William Jones, by Watson Bradley Dickerman
Frances Eliot, by Ewald Schniewind
Edmund Fanning, by David Hale Fanning
Frederick Samuel Fish, by Grace Studebaker Fish
Jonathan Fish, by Stuyvesant Fish
Rev. Samuel Fish and Rev. Henry Clay Fish, by Frederick Samuel Fish
Susannah Fuller, by William Wallace Crapo
Capt. John Gallup, by William Arthur Gallup
Major Nathan Gold and Nathan Gold, Esq., by George Jay Gould
Zaccheus Gould, Gov. Thomas Dudley, Gov. Simon Bradstreet, Anne Bradstreet and Ezekiel Cheever, by George Lambert Gould
Hetty Howland Robinson Green, by Col. Edward Howland Robinson Green
Meyer Guggenheim, by S. R. Guggenheim
William Hamersley, by Louis Gordon Hamersley
William Havens and Obadiah Havens, by Arthur Exley Havens
Stephen Hopkins, by George Alonzo Gibson
Benjamin Jenkins Howland and John Howland, by Helen Howland Wetmore
Ralph Nelson Isham and John Isham, by Ralph Isham
Joshua Jennings, by Walter and Oliver Gould Jennings
Thomas Jewell, by Mrs. Mary Elmina Jewell Mermod
Capt. Joseph Kingsbury, Jacob Kingsbury and Frederic John Kingsbury
James D. Leary, by George Leary
Capt. Thomas Leigh, Humphrey Chadbourne and Edwin Leigh, by Edward Baker Leigh
Abraham Lincoln
George Bushar Markle and Christian Merkel, by John Markle
Richard, Increase and Cotton Mather, by Samuel, William Gwinn and Katharine Livingston Mather
John May, by George Henry May
John Henry Meyer and George Gibson McMurtry, for Edward Painter McMurtry
William Mills and John Mills, by John Mills, Jr.
Isaac Little Millspaugh, M.D., and Matheis Mellsbag, by Edward Judson Millspaugh
Miles Morgan
Thomas Munson and Richard Lyman, by Myron Andrews Munson and Samuel Lyman Munson
Col. Arthur Noble, by Alexander Hamilton Rice
William Orrell

John Otis and Margaret Otis, by Walter Joseph Otis, M.D.
George Pardee and Rev. Anthony Pardee, by Jesse Homan Pardee
William Phelps, by Francis Phelps Dodge
Capt. Michael Pierce, Capt. Thomas Williams and John Brown, by Marion Pierce Carter
John Pushee, by George Durant Pushee and John Edward Pushee
William Pynchon, by George Mallory Pynchon
Rev. John Robinson, by Marion Whipple Deering
John Davison Rockefeller, by Edith Rockefeller McCormick
Thomas Rogers and Lieut. Joseph Rogers, by Richard Henry Williams
Joseph Rochemont de Poyen de St. Sauveur, by James Clarence Hamlen and Maria Patten Hamlen
Major Samuel Shaw, by Anna Blake Shaw
Freeman Ballard Shedd and Daniel Shed, by Amy Frances Shedd
John Sibley and Henry Adams, by Rufus Adams Sibley
Isaac Stevens, by Isaac Frank Stevens
Edward Sturgis, Samuel and Sarah Hinckley and Gov. Thomas Hinckley, by Frank Knight Sturgis
William Swyft, by Charles Henry Swift
John Taylor and Capt. John Underhill, by Myron C. Taylor and Willard Underhill Taylor
William Underwood, by Henry Oliver Underwood
William Ward and Gen. Artemas Ward, by Artemas Ward
Stukeley Westcott, by Katherine Westcotte Tingley
Roger Williams, Mary Barnard, Thomas Angell and Alice Ashton, by Louise Lewis Lovell
John Wilson, by Mary Beecher Longyear
William Henry Wilson, by Everett Wilson

OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS FOR 1945

President

Frederic Alonzo Turner	Boston

Vice Presidents

Davenport Brown	Boston
George Andrews Moriarty	Ogunquit, Maine
Walter Goodwin Davis	Portland, Maine
Miss Shirley Farr	Brandon, Vt.
Morgan Bulkeley Brainard	Hartford, Conn.
Foster Stearns	Hancock, N. H.

Treasurer

Everett Jefts Beede	Belmont

Recording Secretary

Mrs. Joseph Curtis Howes	Brookline

Corresponding Secretary

Miss Elsie McCormack	Manchester

The Council

Davenport Brown
Everett Jefts Beede
Mrs. Franklin Earl Scotty
Mrs. Joseph Curtis Howes
Miss Elsie McCormack

Term expiring in February 1946

Miss Florence Sophia Dustin	Cambridge
Carleton Rubira Richmond	Boston
Richard Spofford Russell	Boston

Term expiring in February 1947

Frederick Chase	Milton
James Melville Hunnewell	Boston
Mrs. Stanwood Gray Wellington	Brookline

Term expiring in February 1948

Mrs. George Hubert Bonsall	Quincy
Arthur Stoddard Johnson	Boston
Thomas Temple Pond	Boston

OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

Editor and Historian

William Carroll Hill . . . . . Newton

Associate Editor

Miss Elsie McCormack . . . . . Manchester

Librarian Emeritus, Assistant Editor and Assistant Treasurer

William Prescott Greenlaw . . . . . Winthrop

Librarian

Mrs. Franklin Earl Scotty . . . . . Belmont

Assistant Librarian

Miss Margery A. Leavitt . . . . . Whitman

Assistant Secretary

Miss Ruth Wilmot MacBrine . . . . . Belmont

Curator

Mrs. Joseph Curtis Howes . . . . . Brookline

MEMBERSHIP DATA

The earliest 1846 list of members of the Society shows

47 Resident
41 Corresponding
7 Honorary

By its first anniversary the Society had as members

53 Resident
83 Corresponding
14 Honorary

The printed list of members in 1847 showed

89 Resident (Dues $3)
162 Corresponding
54 Honorary

The greatest number of members admitted in one year was 709 in 1930. (By election, succession and reinstatement.)

The greatest number of members at the end of any year was 3,172 in 1930.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society begins its second century March 19, 1945, with the following list of memberships by classes:

Honorary	11
Corresponding	31
Pilgrim Tercentenary	250
Colonial	153
$100 Life	372
50 Life	101
30 Life	5
10 Annual	1,350
5 Annual	74
3 Annual	9
Total	2,356

Total memberships held in the New England Historic Genealogical Society during its first century, March 18, 1845–March 18, 1945:

Life and Annual	7,548
Honorary	139
Corresponding	707
Pilgrim Tercentenary	734
Colonial	263
Total	9,391